

New Ministry name - time for a new DIRT banner...
Got a banner design idea?
Let us know!

the DIRT

INTERNAL NEWSLETTER

Public Service Week Celebrations



Advisory Group Vision:

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

The Dirt Facebook



To join “*The Dirt*” facebook page, simply go to the link provided and ask to join the group. You must let us know where you worked/work within the ministry. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/flnrnews/>

Issues of “*The Dirt*” will be posted online quarterly. The newsletter and facebook group are for all employees and former employees and is intended to provide up-to-date information on the organization. Add your story to *The Dirt* facebook account. “Participating in social media means contributing content or comment. When doing so, we trust you to be professional, personable, and relevant.” Social media guidelines.

Submit an Article to [The Dirt](#) and receive a Notebook



The Dirt Contents, July 2017

Click on a # to jump to page

IN THIS ISSUE		RECOGNITION		AROUND THE MINISTRY
Join Facebook Group	2	Dedication Red Wassick	4	46th Annual Trapshoot - 17
BC Wildfire Service	3	Summits of Canada	6	
The Dirt Advisory Group	4	NRS Officer Graduates	14	
Declaration of Collaboration	5			
Get your Goat on	7-8			
Flood Control Measures	8	Photo Contest Winners	19-21	
Six Peaks Dinosaur Track	9-10			
River Forecast Superheroes	11-13			
57th Annual Canadian Land Directers Conference	15			
Emergency Preparedness	16			

BC Wildfire Service Continues to Fight Wildfires!

Our forests and wildlands cover over 94 million hectares (nearly a million square kilometres) with approximately 2,000 wildfires occurring each year.

While last year around this time, BC Wildfire Service were able to send personnel to assist with the record-breaking Fort McMurray fire—The Beast!

On July 7, 2017, a declaration of a provincial state of emergency was issued to ensure a co-ordinated response to the current wildfire situation and to ensure public safety. Due to the increase in interface wildfires and the extreme wildfire behaviour being exhibited, it is critical that the government has the ability to access resources that may be needed to assist with firefighting efforts. The state of emergency declaration ensures the continuation to access essential supplies and to provide, maintain and co-ordinate emergency medical, welfare and other essential services throughout British Columbia. The last provincial state of emergency was declared during the wildfires of 2003.

As of July 21, 43,407 people across the province have been evacuated, with 37 evacuation alerts (standby) and 53 evacuation total orders (leave now). Evacuating a home is a very difficult and emotional experience, choosing to remain puts everyone in danger, including first responders.

Since April 1, 2017, the total number of wildfires was 716, as of July 21, 167 wildfires were burning amounting to 361, 599 hectares —keep in mind these numbers fluctuate very quickly.

As of July 20, 824 firefighting personnel from other agencies are assisting with firefighting efforts in British Columbia, consisting of fire crews, support staff, Incident Management Teams and fire investigators.

A total of 3,607 personnel are fighting wildfires in British Columbia. These numbers are rapidly changing due to the fluidity of the current wildfire situation.

Since the production of this newsletter the numbers have changed, for more information refer to: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/home>

Photo by: Ryan Gow, Columbia Unit Crew Leader. Columbia Unit Crew in Cache Creek.



Dedication to Red Wassick

Submitted by: Nick Bowolin, retiree



Red Wassick has since gone fishing and is playing his violin in the new heavenly world.

Recently at Procter, BC (about 30 km up from Nelson) which many of you know as the ferry crossing (Balfour) from Nelson to Creston there was a dedication to Red and his achievements. Procter and Balfour are on Kootenay Lake.

cated a fishing wharf in his memory. The pictures show the new dock. Making the presentation on behalf of the West Arm Outdoors Club is President Gord Grunerud also retired Ministry of Forests (BC Forest Service staff member).

Red worked in Silviculture in the Nelson Forest Region for his whole career.

lected a pension for more years than he worked!

He supervised many tree planting projects and millions of the first trees and plantations of the BC Forest Service in the Kootenays. During that time he also supervised many forest fire assaults to save these trees.

See [BC Archives - A Proud Tradition Nelson Forest Region 1897-2003](#).

The West Arm Outdoors Club dedi-

A marvelous statistic is that he col-

Ever wonder who puts *The Dirt* together?

Meet The Dirt Advisory Group!

Sonia Donison, Manager/Team Lead, Correspondence Services Section, Victoria

Sheila Tucnik, Senior Contract Procurement Specialist, Financial Services Branch, Victoria

Karlie Shaughnessy, Information Officer, BC Wildfire Service - Southeast Fire Centre, Castlegar

Kimberly Scott, Stewardship Forester, Cariboo Natural Resource Region, Quesnel

Alexandra Ryland, Practices Forester, BC Timber Sales – Chinook, Queen Charlotte

Josh Pressey, District Manager, Quesnel Natural Resource District

Kimm Magill-Hofmann, Senior Licensed Water Authorizations Officer – Okanagan Shuswap Natural Resource District

Richard Dominy, Business Application Forester, BC Timber Sales – Headquarters, Victoria

As you can see, we have advisory group members representing a number of locations around the ministry and if you would like to join this exciting team, or become a local representative for your office, we would love to hear from you. You can contact FLNRNews@gov.bc.ca directly. Also, thank you to those who took the time to complete our survey—we will do our best to meet everyone's suggestions.

Declaration of Collaboration between BC and Quebec Chief Foresters

Submitted by: Caroline Wood, RPF, Resource Practices Branch



As a follow up to our [December article](#) on the BC Chief Forester tour in Quebec in November 2016, we would like to share with you some recent developments between Quebec and British Columbia.

In a non-legally binding document, the two Chief Foresters, namely Louis Pelletier, ing. F. Forestier en Chef du Quebec and Diane Nicholls, R.P.F., Chief Forester of BC have signed a Declaration on the Development of Collaboration between the two provinces.

Both Chief Foresters have recognized the benefits and the importance of continuous exchanges between the two provinces in an attempt to share information and promote best practices as they relate to sustainable forest management.

As such, the parties have agreed to meet on an annual basis via videoconference and alternate face to face meetings with field component every two years subject to travel approval. The objectives of those meetings are to exchange information on sustainable forest management practices in the context of determination of allowable cuts.

This is a first cross government agreement between Chief Foresters for both Quebec and British Columbia. This collaboration will hopefully provide us with some learning opportunities through cooperation based on exchanges of expertise and experiences.

Have a Story idea?
Send *The Dirt* Advisory Group your ideas!

Don't forget about the Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/flnrnews/>

SUMMITS OF CANADA EXPEDITION

A Canadian mountaineering success story with lessons for everyone

Submitted by: Michelle Larstone, Executive Administrative Assistant, North Area

A milestone in Canadian mountaineering was achieved on June 18, 2017, without fanfare or paparazzi. High atop Barbeau Peak on Ellesmere Island, in one of the most remote places in Canada's Arctic, Skeena Natural Resource Region Ecosystem Specialist Len Vanderstar realized a quest that had begun 11 years earlier: to climb each of Canada's 13 provincial and territorial high-points.

What became known as Summits of Canada Expedition began in 2006 with an unsuccessful attempt of Alberta's Mount Columbia. Unfazed, the team tried again later that summer and reached the summit. This would become a theme of the expedition: Zen-like patience, dogged persistence, and technical skill would all be necessary if the quest was to be achieved.



For Len and his team (the make-up of which varied over the years), being first has always taken a backseat to the expedition's real driver—to promote and share Canada's vast, diverse and stunning geography and the cultures that have emerged from it with people around the world, particularly students. Over the last decade, the expedition has connected with more than 18,000 teachers, been built into multiple lesson plans, and has reached students all across the country, including Nunavut.

Vanderstar began serious mountaineering when he was 19. He is now a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society, which in itself illustrates the magnitude of the feat he has accomplished with these 13 summits. As skilled and experienced as Len is, Mount Logan decided she was not going to give up her summit easily. There were five storms on the team's second attempt, all of which could have killed them if they were not adequately prepared. They were finally able to summit on day 28 of the expedition. That was in 2008, a climbing season in which only 8 climbers out of 80 made it to the top, a success rate worse than Mount Everest.

One of the messages Len likes to share with students is, "we all have mountains to climb." He encourages them to find what they are passionate about and follow their dreams, and likes to remind them that patience, perseverance and teamwork can overcome metaphorical summits as well as physical ones. Len knows from experience just how lucky we are in Canada to have access to amazing landscapes as well as so many other opportunities and services.

What's next for Len? He's planning on speaking tours, school presentations, and spending more time with his wife Irene who has supported his passion for climbing for so many years and in so many ways. He suspects she will experience less associated anxiety knowing he's in a grade 5 classroom rather than dug into a glacier cave during a five-day storm.

For more information about Summits of Canada, including a timeline of the decade-long expedition and information about The CanaTrek Prayer Flag150 Contest, visit [The Summits of Canada](#).

Get your Goat on

Submitted by: Krystal Dixon, Wildlife Biologist, Skeena Natural Resource Region

Do you know that we, in Skeena Region, have the most mountain goats of anywhere globally?! British Columbia is home to over 50% of mountain goats (*Oreamnos americanus*) that are found globally, with an estimated half of those residing in the Skeena region (MOE 2010). Mountain goats are ranked S3 or Blue Listed in British Columbia, which indicates they are “of special concern” (BC Conservation Data Center 2016).



Mountain goats are a symbol of wilderness and are an important species to First Nations, hunters and non-hunters in the Province of British Columbia. Managing populations of wildlife at an appropriate biological scale for the species is important, at a minimum, to ensure conservation values are appropriately considered. A population management unit (PMU) can be described as a metapopulation; a

metapopulation is defined as a group of several local populations that are linked by immigration and emigration (Levins 1970; Caughley and Gunn 1996). While most populations of mountain goats undertake some seasonal movement (Festa-Bianchet and Côté 2003), little is known about dispersal patterns in mountain goat populations (MOE 2010). Using the appropriate scale to manage populations ensures that conservation measures are appropriately considered, while balancing other potential impacts on those populations (access, recreation, harvest, etc.).

Mountain goat PMU's have currently been derived for the Skeena region based on expert opinion along with using major watershed boundaries that may serve as a barrier to animal movement throughout the majority of the region. Having biologically meaningful PMU's will improve the management of goats, ensuring values such as conservation and appropriate harvest opportunities are evaluated and maintained at an appropriate scale.

This year, Skeena region will take mountain goat management to the next level, as wildlife staff begins to collar mountain goats. A total of 22 goat collars will be deployed on mountain goats northeast of Smithers (Blunt Mountain and Netalzul Mountain). In this study we will use collaring information from both nanny and billy mountain goats, on two adjacent mountain complexes, along with genetic comparisons, to help refine PMU's. The collection of the data will not only enable the opportunity to delineate PMU(s) for these two mountain complexes, but will allow us to make inferences to support genetic work to help determine more biologically based PMU's for mountain goats in the rest of the Skeena region.

In recent years, some inventories have showed some mountain goat populations units as potentially declining. Several ministry staff in Ecosystems and GIS (Len Vanderstar, and Blair Ells, respectively), have developed a collaborative approach with the Land Tenures Branch and industry, to assess compliance of heli-ski operators with respect to ungulate winter ranges and voluntary no fly zones established to minimize disturbance on wildlife. This collaborative work, along with the upcoming goat collaring project, ongoing wildlife population surveys, harvest reviews, among others, are examples of work that is currently going on to contribute to understanding why some potential population declines have been observed in some areas.

If you would like to know more about mountain goats or this research project, please contact Krystal (krystal.dixon@gov.bc.ca).

continued...

Get your Goat on continued...



References:

Caughley, G., and A. Gunn. 1996. Conservation biology in theory and practice. Blackwell Science, Cambridge, MA.

Festa-Bianchet, M. and S.D. Côté. 2003. Variable age structure and apparent density dependence in survival of adult ungulates. *Journal of Animal Ecology* 72: 640-649.

Levins, R. 1970. Extinction. In M. Gerstenhaber (ed.), *Some Mathematical Questions in Biology. Lecture Notes on Mathematics in the Life Sciences*, pp. 75-107. The American Mathematical Society, Providence, R.I.

MOE. 2010. Ministry of Environment. Management plan for the mountain goat (*Oreamnos americanus*) in British Columbia.

Flood Control Measures

Submitted by:

Tammy Jones, Natural Resource Officer, Okanagan Shuswap Field Unit (Vernon/Salmon Arm)

Kyle Beadman, Natural Resource Officer, Okanagan Shuswap Field Unit

On May 12, 2017, the Village of Lumby was requesting assistance with Flood Control measures. Natural Resource Officer Tammy Jones heard the call out for assistance on the local radio station that morning and discussed the possibility with Supervisor Beadman in providing a level of assistance to the community.

NRO Jones grew up in the Lumby area and felt a need as not only a long-time resident of the area, but as a Public Servant of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development to give back to this community. Supervisor Beadman was very supportive of this initiative, as well as, felt as the Team of NRO's in the Vernon Field Unit are a 'work family', also wanted to support NRO Jones and the community further.

NRO's Kyle Beadman, Don Lemp, Dan Krywonos, Sam Isaak and Tammy Jones went out to the Village of Lumby that same morning and pitched in their time and muscle in assisting in the construction of a huge number of sandbags. These sandbags were placed on pallets for shipping to be used by area residents that lived along a number of creeks within the community.

As Natural Resource Officers, we had the opportunity

to work alongside community members, build rapport and use the opportunity to answer questions as to what a Natural Resource Officer does, which is often confused with that of Conservation Officer Services. It is also important to recognize the efforts of the BC Wild-fire Service Unit Crew and the Village of Lumby staff that worked side by side to get the sand bagging done.

Overall, it was a rewarding experience to give back to an amazing community, provide a level of support, shed some sweat and tears when it came to the achy muscles, and share in making a negative experience a little more positive.

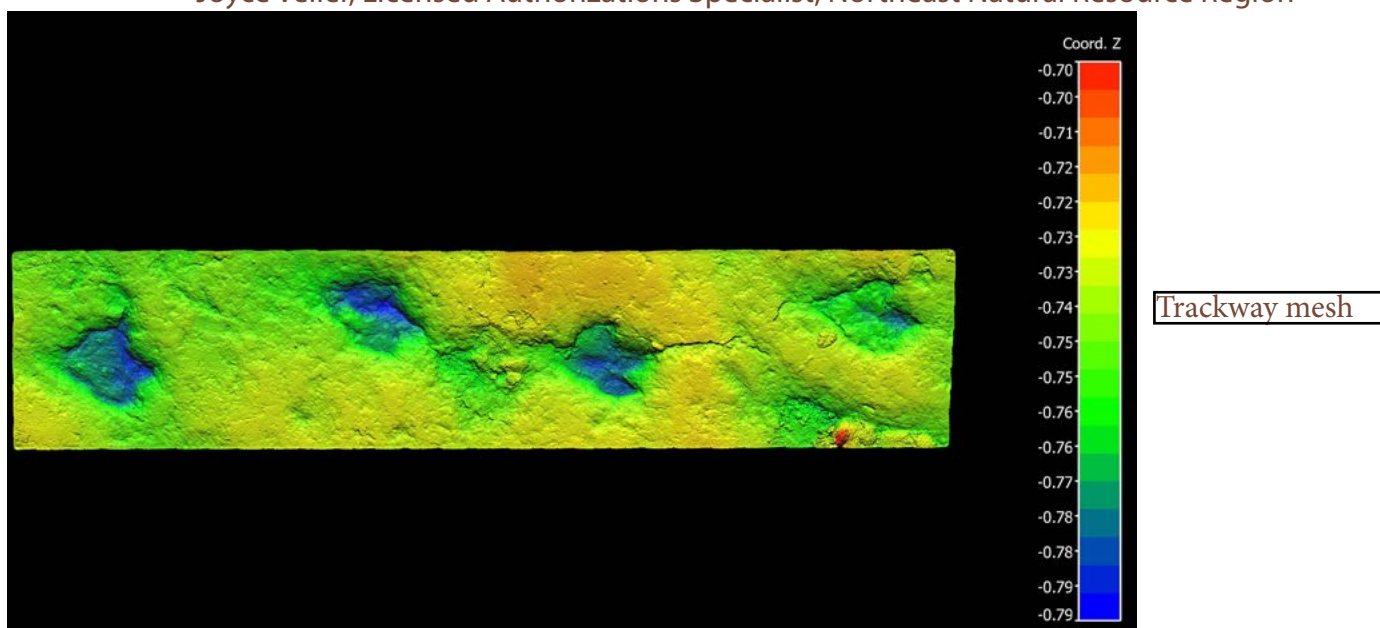


NRO's: Don Lemp, Kyle Beadman, Dan Krywonos and Sam Isaak

The Six Peaks Dinosaur Track Site

Submitted by: Richard T. McCrea, Ph.D., Peace Region Palaeontology Research Centre

Joyce Veller, Licensed Authorizations Specialist, Northeast Natural Resource Region



In the fall of 2008 Barry Mireau, a local resident, reported the discovery of a fossil footprint site to the Peace Region Palaeontology Research Centre (PRPRC). By a small stroke of luck this discovery closely coincided with a planned helicopter tour on October 17, 2008, hosted by the PRPRC, of a sample of fossil sites in the Peace Region. This tour included me and three Provincial Government staff including Elisabeth Deom, now with the Heritage Branch. In three hours of flying time our group visited the site of British Columbia's first hadrosaur bonebed, an Early Triassic fossil fish and marine reptile locality high in the snow-covered alpine, and finally Mr. Mireau's dinosaur footprint site. The footprint site was overwhelming for its size and the number and quality of footprints and trackways present. The track surface dipped gently to the north and is located within a large industrial clearing. Most of the footprints and trackways were covered in rubble and

moss, but were visible. We cleared loose debris from a few footprints and took several photographs. It was immediately evident that this site was unprecedented for British Columbia for its size as well as the number and quality of fossil dinosaur footprints present. Most of the footprints visible at the time were those of medium-large size theropods (meat-eating dinosaurs), although there were at least some mid-sized ornithopod (plant-eating dinosaur) footprints as well.

The footprint site is found in the Carbon Creek Basin, west of Hudson's Hope. The footprints are preserved in sediments belonging to the Gaylard Member of the Gething Formation, which were deposited during the Early Cretaceous (Albian) about 117 million years ago. This site is time-equivalent to the footprint sites from the Peace River Canyon near Hudson's Hope which were first reported in the 1920's by geologist Mr. F.H. McLearn and

later visited by National Museum of Canada (now Canadian Museum of Nature) palaeontologist Charles M. Sternberg. Sternberg's scientific description of the dinosaur footprints from the Peace River Canyon was the world's first description of an Early Cretaceous footprint fauna. All of these footprint sites were flooded in the fall of 1979 when the Peace Canyon Dam became operational. Mr. Mireau's dinosaur footprint site is significant as it is the only large footprint site from this formation that is currently accessible.

Mr. Mireau's footprint site deserved immediate research attention. However, there were a number of factors which delayed action until the spring of 2016, including funding and the establishment of protective status for the site due to its significance and close proximity to an active public road. Thanks to a very generous donation from the Dalglish Family Foundation, research was able to begin in earnest in late June,

continued...

Six Peaks Dinosaur Track Site continued...

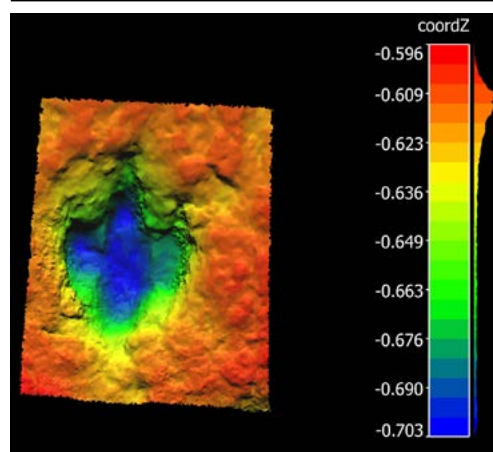
led by PRPRC palaeontologists along with the participation of a number of international palaeontologists and several local volunteers. Our group cleared over 750 metres² of the footprint surface exposing well over 1200 footprints and scores of trackways. At least 12 different footprint types are present, including several varieties of small, medium, and large theropod footprints, small, medium and large ornithopod footprints, sauropod ('brontosaurus') footprints as well as avian footprints. A few of these footprint types have never been previously described from the Peace River Canyon, and a large, four-toed theropod footprint that has never been reported in the scientific literature. The goal is to continue the excavation and documentation of the footprint site over the next 4 seasons, to uncover a total of 3,000 metres² which should yield approximately 5,000 dinosaur footprints; more footprints than were documented from all of the footprint sites within the now flooded Peace River Canyon.

The researchers suggested the name "Six Peaks Dinosaur Track Site" during the field work due to the area being ringed by six mountains, most of which are important to the local First Nations communities. The footprint site was formally unveiled at the locality at an event jointly organized by the North and South Peace Economic Development Commissions, the Treaty 8 Tribal Association, and the District of Hudson's Hope. The Heritage Branch participated by providing some resources for this event which was attended by at least 100 people, including the MLA's for Peace River North and Peace River South. The Treaty 8 Tribal Association organized a blessing ceremony that included traditional dances. Over 700 people visited the site during the excavation in July and August: this high level of public interest is remarkable given the remoteness of the site exacerbated by only being accessible via a very active logging road.

On October 17, 2016, the Heritage Branch was successful in establishing a conditional withdrawal from disposition for the area containing the Six Peaks Dinosaur Track Site. This was a vitally important step towards protecting this unique site and sends a much-needed message about the importance of protecting and conserving the palaeontological resources in British Columbia.



Site in 2008



Small
ornithopod
after mesh

Superheroes of the River Forecast Centre

Tina Neale, Manager of the River Forecast Centre and Dam Safety Section in the Water Management Branch. She is relatively new to the position and can't believe how lucky she is to work with public safety superheroes.

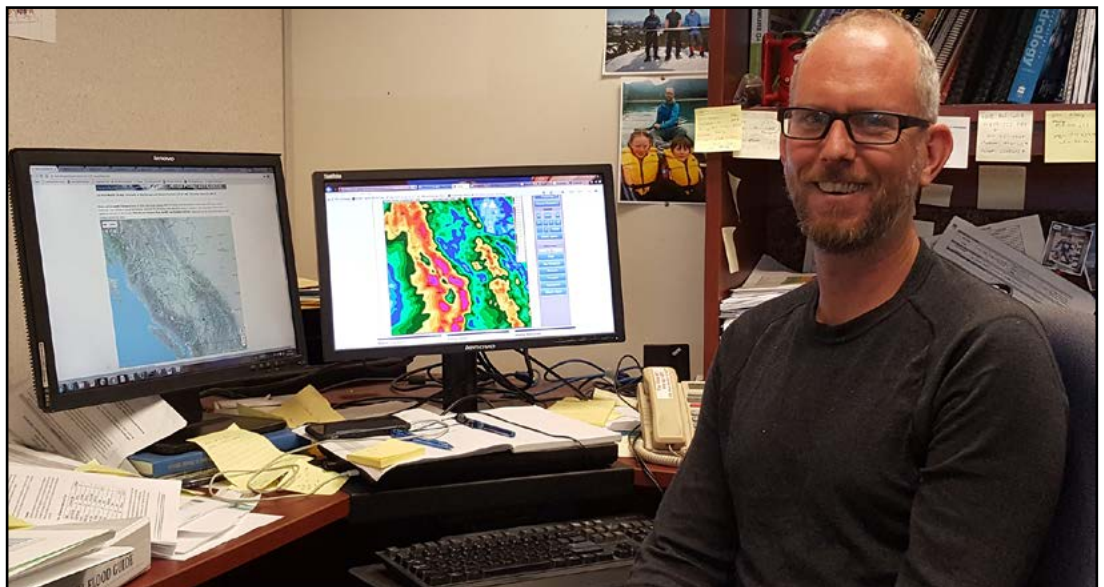
This spring's freshet flood season has been a doozy, which you will know well if you live or work in the Okanagan, or the Shuswap, or around Merritt or several other places around the province. While most of the action has been focused in the Thompson Okanagan region, around the lakes in particular, there has been localized flooding on creeks and rivers across the province from the Peace to the Skeena and from the Kootenays to the Lower Fraser. Flooding has affected local governments, First Nations, residents and businesses, and has required heroic commitment from staff across FLNRO, Emergency Management BC, MARR, and other government agencies to support the flood fighting efforts of local emergency authorities.

There are a lot of superheroes out there when it comes to this year's flood response; folks who have put in long hours, worked lots of weekends and brought their professional knowledge and problem solving skills, as well as a good dose of compassion to the front lines of the response. One of the key ingredients to supporting the people making decisions on the front-lines, like where to deploy sandbags or in which neighbourhoods to issue evacuation orders, is good information about current and developing flood conditions. The [River Forecast Centre](#) is the information hub that, combined with local expertise and the observations of front-line staff, provides a bit of foresight to responders.

So where exactly is the River Forecast Centre (RFC) and the legion of hydrological superheroes who work there? To look at it from the outside, you might think that RFC is just three cubicles and an office in the corner of the 3rd floor of 395 Waterfront Crescent in Victoria. Sorry to disappoint, but there are no walls covered in big screens, no blinky lights and sirens, no military-style command centre here. It all looks rather ordinary to the casual observer. But look behind the cubicle walls and you'll discover an elite team of water wizardry.

First there is Dave Campbell. Dave is a geoscientist, but in my head, I call him "the artist" (I have only ever seen him eat kale and pulled pork). Dave is the section head of RFC and is most often its public voice. If there's ever flooding in your neck of the woods, you will probably hear Dave's calm and trustworthy commentary on your local radio news broadcast. He's the artist because he takes in all of the information – model output, hydrometric observations, weather forecasts, past flood events, input from staff on the ground—and generates an interpretation of current and upcoming conditions. Not only that, but he communicates it in a way that's understandable by the public and relevant to emergency responders. Since becoming the RFC section head in 2011, Dave has led the team through a significant expansion of service beyond the Fraser River watershed and continues to set a solid vision for excellence river forecasting.

Much of that expansion is due to our next superhero, the modeling guru, Charles Luo. Not only is Charles clever, he invented CLEVER. CLEVER stands for Channel Links Evolution Explicit Routing. It's a flood forecasting model for



continued...

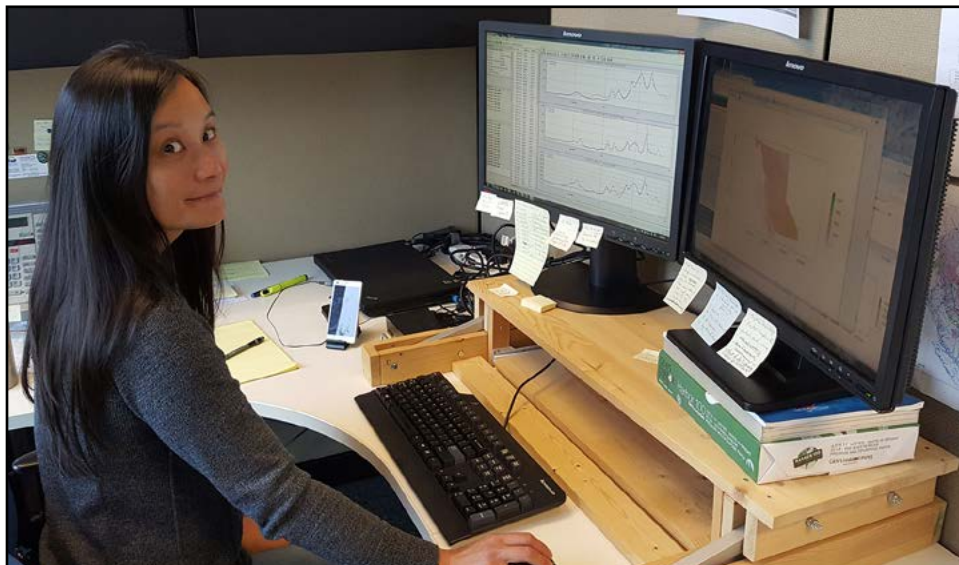
River Forecast Centre continued...

BC that Charles developed during his PhD research and further refined with his RFC colleagues since he joined the team in 2013. Let's face it, BC is not an easy place to do flood forecasting; we have an immense variety of terrain and hydro-climatic conditions throughout the province. In CLEVER, the province is broken down into over 90 sub-catchments with relatively homogeneous characteristics, which are linked together along the river systems. Charles feeds the model data on snowmelt, weather, and other variables and CLEVER calculates a water balance at specific nodes as it routes the water through the system ([here's the paper](#) if you're interested in the technical details). Prior to 2013, RFC's modeling capability was limited to the Fraser River watershed. With CLEVER, RFC can now provide flood forecasting services in the Peace, Columbia, Skeena, Nass, Stikine and Liard. Stay tuned, because Charles is planning to develop a similar model for coastal watersheds to assist with flood forecasting during the fall coastal rainy season. Not only is he a modeling guru, he also has a penchant for acronyms: he's planning to name the new model CoFFEE. None of RFC's models or forecasting would be possible without Doris Leong. Doris's job title is RFC Technician, but she's really the RFC data ninja. She is responsible for managing the streams of data—literally thousands



of records of hydrometric, snow, precipitation and temperature measurements and forecasts that feed into RFC's flood forecasting models. A master innovator, Doris uses her new favourite weapon, the coding language "R", to automate, visualize, and analyze data and push it out to the RFC website and to the modeling applications. Since she joined RFC in 2015, she has single-handedly transformed RFC's data management and created new data visualization and forecasting tools. I've never seen her leap tall buildings in a single bound, but she definitely has the determination to figure out how.

Barring a major rainfall, it looks like the 2017 freshet flood season is coming to an end, though Okanagan Lake will likely not return to normal levels until August. Between May 3rd and June 15th RFC issued a total of 51 bulletins.

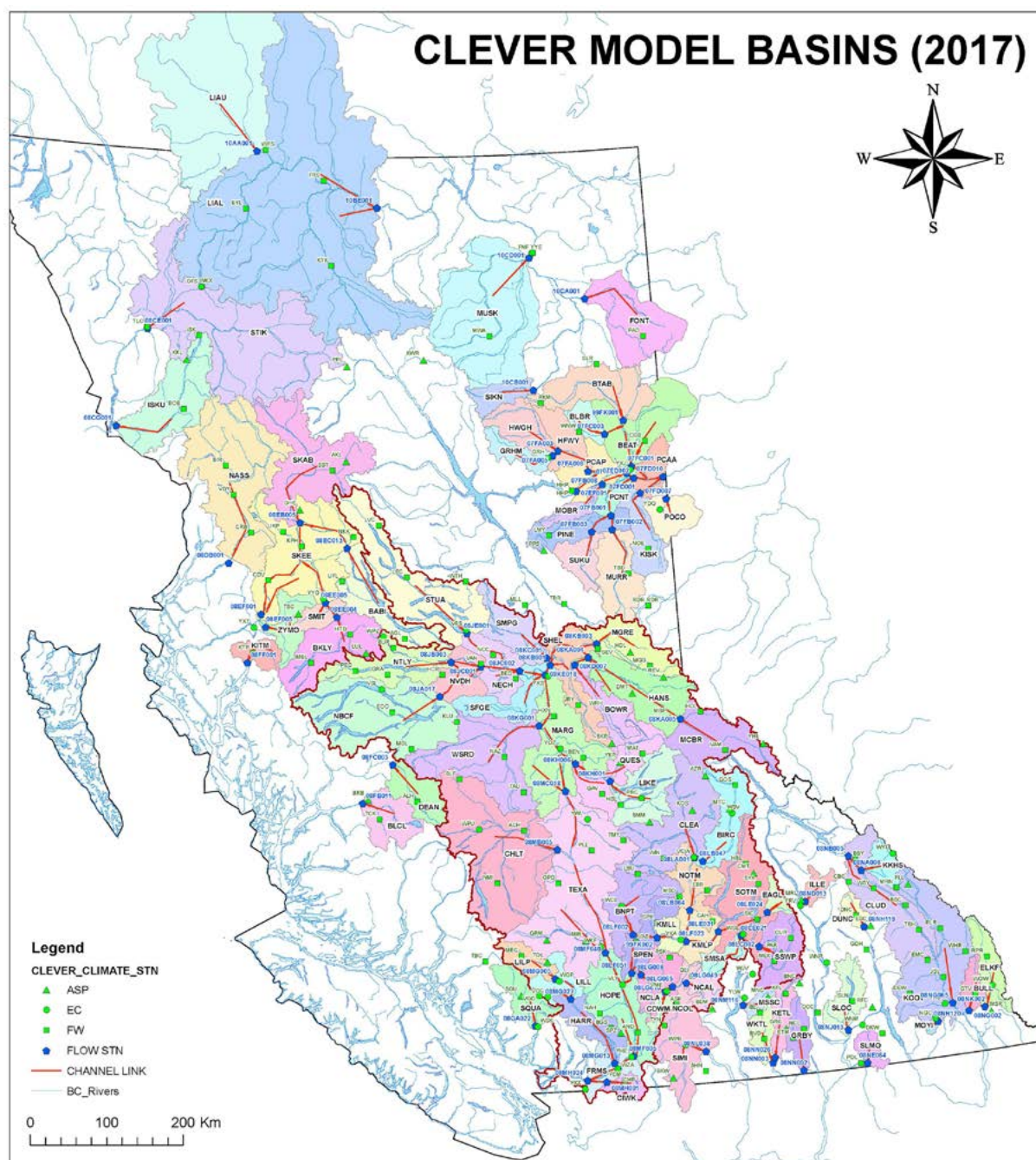


continued...

River Forecast Centre continued...

Staff were on duty for 43 days straight modeling, analyzing data, reporting on daily Provincial Regional Emergency Coordination Centre calls, responding to media inquiries, working with regional staff on lake modeling, and a host of other activities. Now the work of continuous improvement begins as we review our performance this season and tinker under the hood of the models to improve forecasting accuracy and add new capabilities for next spring.

What's next for RFC? We are looking forward to welcoming a new hydrologist superhero on board in August to fill a recent vacancy. And, we'll be launching a new website sometime over the next few months. Oh, and low-flow forecasting for drought response this summer, and then coastal flood forecasting this fall. No matter where we are in the water year, there's always something to look forward to at RFC.



Congratulations Natural Resource Officer Graduates of the 2017 Academy Training!

Submitted by: Holly Frederickson, Training and Education Coordinator, Compliance & Enforcement Branch



Back row (L – R): Kevin Edquist, David Assels (ALC), Veronica McGinn, Kayla Topping, Mike Sidow, Andrew Simpson, Nikolaus McEwan, Chris Miller, Gavin Francis, Roland Persinovic (ALC)

Front row (L – R): Hailey Smith, Melanie Veres, Caitlin Bickford, Christina Bigrigg, Andy Calarco, Tim Sheldon, Mary Sue Maloughney, Matt Dubois, Bijan Sametz-Asgari, Jamie Mercier, Hayley Thomas

On April 24th, the second training Academy got underway at the Pacific Regional Training Centre (PRTC) in Chilliwack. Attending were 14 newly hired Natural Resource Officers (NROs) from across BC and two Compliance and Enforcement (C&E) Officers from the Agriculture Land Commission. Two other compliance agencies sent team members for portions of the training: the Environmental Assessment Office and the Yukon Government. This cooperative learning approach was a first and has strengthened relationships across the entities.

Over the four intensive weeks of training, experienced C&E team members provided a review of Legislation and Basic Law. More in-depth focus included new safety

procedures, NRO law fundamentals and familiarization with online reporting systems. Tactics vital to this role were covered in Verbal Judo, Confrontational Management and Situational Awareness. Guest speakers shared their expertise about BC Wildfire Service, the Water Sustainability Act and Groundwater BC and clarity was provided on how NROs can best support these agencies.

Jenni Martin, C&E Provincial Manager of Training, sees this training model as having multiple benefits. “It’s an opportunity to support our new recruits to adopt our culture and create connections while delivering consistent messaging. The expectations for their role are clearly identified and reinforced. It’s also great to see how proud they look in their uniform as they interact with

new and experienced staff.”

Scenario analysis and field inspections augmented classroom time. This practical approach also connected the learning from the first Academy as two 2016 graduates along with a seasoned member of the Chilliwack NRO team shared their knowledge gained from field experience.

On May 19th, the NROs received their certificate of completion presented by our Executive team and then took their official Oath of Office. We wish them well as they join in our mandate to protect the land, water, forests and cultural resources for future generations.

57th Annual Canadian Land Directors Association Conference

Submitted by: Michelle Porter, Director, Land Tenures Branch



The Land Tenures Branch, on behalf of British Columbia, recently hosted the 57th Annual Canadian Land Directors Conference in Victoria from June 12-15, 2017. The Conferences are hosted by a rotating provincial or territorial chair. Most recently, the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources hosted the 2016 Conference and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry hosted in 2015. The BC hosted Conference was well attended with 10 of 13 Canadian jurisdictions participating. Representatives from New South Wales, Australia and New Zealand were also in attendance to provide perspectives from similar Crown jurisdictions internationally.

The goal of the Conference is to engage participants in a cross jurisdictional forum to exchange information and seek solutions to common issues regarding the administration and management of provincial Crown land in Canada. The presentations exemplified both the com-

monalities and the unique characteristics of the jurisdictions, and BC's Crown Land Transformation Project presentation, in collaboration with the Natural Resource Permitting Project (NRPP), facilitated much discussion. The forum is valuable; in addition to the similar legislative, policy and land-use issues, the group discussed common contexts such as First Nations reconciliation, federal government files and succession planning for the sector.

The Conference ran for four days, with two days of speakers and jurisdictional presentations and two days out in the field. Conference opening remarks were provided by Deputy Minister Tim Sheldan and Assistant Deputy Minister Dave Peterson. BC was also pleased to welcome Mike Thomson, BC Surveyor General from the Land Title and Survey Authority and Geoff Moyse of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General as guest speakers. The second two days of the Conference saw the delegates head out to explore

Vancouver Island to provide the BC perspective regarding integration and management of commercial, industrial and conservation activities on BC's coast as well as fossils, heritage sites, derelict vessels and other issues. Land Tenures Branch would like to thank Bonita Wallace and Cam Bezanson of the Nanaimo Regional Office, Jim Maxwell of the Victoria Highland Games Association, Elisabeth Deom of the Heritage Branch and Lori Treloar of The Shawnigan Lake Museum for their contributions.

Land Tenures Branch was pleased to be able to lead and contribute to the national and international dialogue on Crown land and appreciated the opportunity to host the Canadian Land Directors Association Conference in British Columbia. The Conference was deemed to be a success by all who participated and the delegates anticipate a productive 2017/2018 year of collaboration using the BC Conference as the catalyst.

Emergency Preparedness Week: Recap of Events at 780 Blanshard St.

Submitted by: Angela Bello, Chief Emergency Warden at 780 Blanshard



I am happy to report a successful 2017 Emergency Preparedness Week (EPW) at FLNRO Headquarters (780 Blanshard Street, Victoria). Our colleagues were inquisitive and enthusiastic about learning how to better prepare for a natural disaster at work and at home.

We had three EPW events during the week of May 7-13, including: conducting our annual fire drill; hosting an Emergency Preparedness Workshop presented by the City of Victoria; and holding a Meet-and-Greet with free coffee where workers in the building could view the informational display, enter the draw (for the prize of a 72-hour kit), and get to know their floor wardens and First Aid attendants.

Our message was to encourage people to:

- [Know the risks](#) – Although the consequences of disasters can be similar, knowing the risks specific to your community and region can help you better prepare.
- [Make a plan](#) – It will help you and your loved ones know what to do.
- [Get an emergency kit](#) – Be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours in an emergency.

Right now, as we look across the province and see our fellow colleagues, friends and families thrust into response and recovery modes by floods, fires and landslides, we must take a moment to consider how we could be impacted by a natural disaster and how we could gain peace of mind by a well-devised and communicated plan. Do we have our survival essentials? Do we know where to meet? And although we cannot go spiralling off into a what-if-world-of-fear, we cannot ignore nor deny the possibility of earthquakes, tsunamis or extreme weather events here on the island. I understand that not all of you DIRT readers live in Victoria, and so, even while you're travelling this summer, please learn the risks in the area of your destination; for example, I am going to Taiwan during Typhoon season! How exciting?!

Furthermore, I like being Chief Emergency Warden at 780 Blanshard because it has created many possibilities to learn about the plans and people involved in preparing and responding to a crisis situation. I have been able to participate in training opportunities, gain leadership experience, and connect with many people in my building due to meetings and safety orientations. I have also learned that it takes time to get everything ready and that there can sometimes be unforeseen glitches, which is why it is so important to start planning now, to practice your plan regularly, and to ask questions. Remember, basic emergency preparedness is a shared responsibility and starts with each individual.

Here are a few resources to help you along your emergency preparedness journey:

- [NRS Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity](#)
- [PreparedBC \(provincial\)](#)
- [Get Prepared \(federal\)](#)



The Sun Reigns at the Alexis Creek Trap Shoot

Submitted by: Brian Rosengren, Stewardship Forester, Cariboo Natural Resource Region

The 46th BC Forest Service Trap Shoot was held at Alexis Creek's Chilcotin Rod and Gun Club Range on Saturday, May 27th under a sunny blue sky.

The turnout was smaller than normal this year with some notable teams absent. Forty shooters comprised of 8 five-person shotgun trap and skeet teams, and also included individual .22 calibre rifle shooters.

Alexis Creek and Williams Lake staff from the Cariboo-Chilcotin Natural Resource District organized the event and BC Wildfire Service crews setup the tents, tables and chairs, and equipment.

Adam Veley and Sam Davis served as range masters—Adam for the shot-gunners, and Sam for the rifle

shooters. This was the first year both Mike Carlson and Barry Jenkins, long time trap shoot attendees were not able to come to the event.

Once again, Quesnel Quality was the highest scoring trap and skeet team and awarded the Jack Lynn Memorial Trophy after a hard fought shout out with the 100 Mile Long Shots. The Quesnel Quality team comprised of Terry Street, Gord Wall, Ted Traer, Andres Street, and Adam Veleyj, who scored 99 out of a possible 125 points.

Gord Wall was the Top Gun, missing only once out of 25 attempts. Melissa Koch was the female Top Gun, with 14 out of 25.

George Ostofroff was the last man standing on the first Annie Oakley

trap shoot line, winning the Kevin Frittenburg Memorial Trophy.

Oleh Chapman triumphed on the second Annie Oakley line.

The .22 calibre rifle shooting winners, listed first to third, were; Patty Murphy, Trisha James, and Melissa Koch for the women and, Journey Carlson, Seamus Rian Haley and Meakin Carlson for the youth.

The Murphy's Law from Horsefly prevailed in a hard fought battle for the lowest-score trophy, and Jennifer Teppema was the 179th fastest gun.

Everyone enjoyed fun in the sun, and the camaraderie of old and new friends out here in Alexis Creek!



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!!



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 SEPTEMBER 15, 2017

July Edition Photo Contest Winners!

Scenic Category - Douglas Lake Ranch

Photo taken by: Ed Grayston, RFT, Tenure Technician, BC Timber Sales -
Merritt Timber Sales Office



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

Workplace Category - NRTS Stargate Award Winners

A team receive their [Stargate award](#) – a quarterly award that provides an opportunity for each member of the Executive Team to recognize individuals on a regular basis.

From left, top to bottom: Ally Taylor, Patti Laanstra, Sarah Chow, Sara Turner, Melissa Ostropolski, Nicole Jackson, Marcin Zaranski

Photo taken by: Pamela Richards, Communications and Engagement Specialist, Natural Resource Sector Transformation Secretariat (NRTS), Natural Resource Permitting Project (NRPP)



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

Wildlife Category - Fawn near Penticton

Photo taken by: Dan Krywonos, Compliance and Enforcement Officer,
Thompson/Okanagan Compliance and Enforcement Branch



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



... they're only here to participate in a
Canada Day parade... Happy 150th Canada!

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 September 15, 2017.



[SUBMISSION GUIDELINES](#)