

the DIRT

FLNR INTERNAL NEWSLETTER

BC's 1st Forest Reserve

Submitted by: Christine Galliazzo, FN/Stewardship Forester, Cascades Natural Resource District



In August of 2014, while camping at the Pass Lake Recreation Site north of Kamloops, I found this old boundary sign on the ground covered in moss and a bit worse for wear (possible bullet wounds). It reads **"Dominion Forest Reserve Boundary. For information concerning Regulations apply to the nearest Forest Officer"**. It is a metallic sign with a blue ceramic coating measuring 20x20 cm. This sign may have been erected around 1902 to mark the boundary of the Long Lake Forest Reserve (BC's 1st forest reserve).

In 1899, the Dominion Forestry Branch formed in the Department of the Interior, in 1901 the Crown Timber office opened in Kamloops; in 1906 the Dominion Forest Reserves Act added 6 other forest reserves in the railway belt. In 1912 the province created the BC Forest Service (BC Forest Service Centenary website <http://www.bcfs100.ca/bcscrips/index.asp>).

Advisory Group Vision:

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

March 2015

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Sudoku - do you play?



SOLUTION

The Dirt Contents, March 2015

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Retirees Receive The Dirt!

If you are a former employee and want to keep up with the latest Dirt, please contact Richard Dominy and he will add you to the retiree's email distribution list. Provide email, home phone and home mailing address. You can contact Richard directly at: Richard.Dominy@gov.bc.ca.

150 years of Crown land management in BC

Submitted by: Tracey Woodland, Senior Policy Advisor, Land Tenures Branch

April 11, 1865, the “Ordinance for regulating the acquisition of Land in British Columbia” was passed by the Colonial Government of British Columbia. This ordinance provides much of the framework for today’s *Land Act*.

The Oregon Boundary Treaty of 1846 granted British sovereignty over Vancouver Island and the lands north of the 49th parallel. The colony of Vancouver Island was established in 1849 and the Colony of British Columbia was established in November of 1858. With the Cariboo and Fraser River gold rushes (1858-1865), both colonies went through major population and accompanying commercial booms. By 1864, the Yale-Cariboo Road between Yale and Barkerville was completed, opening the interior of the province to fast stage coach traffic.

Many arrived for gold, but decided to stay to take up farming or ranching, and the colony of British Columbia wanted to provide for the orderly settlement and use of Crown land and resources.

The British Columbia Land Ordinance of 1860 dealt primarily with acquiring Crown land via pre-emption, granting 160 acres with full title upon completion of required improvements (clearing and cultivation of the land, building a dwelling and necessary roads), land survey, and payment of 10 shillings per acre.

The Land Ordinance of 1865 was a more comprehensive enactment. In addition to continuing the provisions for acquiring unsurveyed Crown land by pre-emption, the Land Ordinance of 1865 set a limit on the total amount of land, which could be pre-empted by an eligible individual at 640 acres and noted that the cost of pre-emption was 4 shillings, 2 pence (\$1) per acre, down from the 10 shillings per acre in 1860 ordinance.

The 1865 ordinance also provided for the auctioning of surveyed Crown land, and allowed any unsold auctioned land to be purchased by direct application at the \$1/acre price.

This ordinance has the first mention of Free Crown Grants of land. “It shall be lawful for the Governor, upon receiving the assent of Her Majesty’s government... to make such free or partially free grants of unoccupied Crown Lands of the Colony...” These free grants were expressly to encourage permanent settlement of the land. The ordinance also allows for reserving lands to the Crown and taking land back for the construction of public roads, bridges and ferries.

The 1865 ordinance also made provision for lease of unlimited size of unoccupied Crown land for “pastoral purposes” and for cutting timber, “subject to the rents and terms considered expedient by the Governor”. These leased lands could be taken up via pre-emption or by sale at any time during the lease term, without compensation, save by a proportionate reduction of rent.

Upon the united colony of British Columbia joining Confederation in 1871, the Lands and Public Works Department was one of the first agencies created in the province. Join us in celebrating 150 years of Crown land management in BC!

BC Archives has a large selection of historical photos in their ‘visual records’ <http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/visual/visual.htm>

Limerick in honour of Steve Dodge now that he is joining the ranks of the old timers (retirees).

***There was a DM who went by the name Steve
He told stories you may or may not believe
Writing for the Dirt
He might lose his shirt
So now he’s on pre-retirement/annual leave***

Submitted by: Grant Johannesen, retiree

Inter-Agency Collaboration Restores Access to a Prime Fishing Lake

Submitted by: Josh Pressey, District Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District



The Skeena Region, in the heart of BC's Lake District, offers some of the best freshwater fishing in the province. When road access to one of the more picturesque and productive fishing lakes in the area was cut off, staff from three FLNR agencies—Ben Heemskerck, Joanne Williams (Recreation Sites and Trails BC - RSTBC), Josh Pressey, John Illes, Rob Phillips (Nadina Resource District), and Dana Atagi, Joe De Gisi and Paddy Hirshfield (Fish and Wildlife)—put their heads together to come up with a collaborative solution for restoring public access.

Richmond Lake (also known as Priestly Lake) is located approximately 30km east of Burns Lake. Nestled in scenic forested hills, Richmond Lake is known for its deep, clear, spring-fed water and high quality trout fishery. First stocked in 1969, the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC currently stocks the lake with 3,000 yearling rainbow trout annually.

Access to Richmond Lake has been an ongoing challenge for more than 30 years. The existing four-wheel-drive road passes through approximately 1.0km of private land and is typically in poor condition due to inadequate drainage and stream crossings. Recently, however, a change in property ownership has resulted in a complete closure of the only road leading to the lake. The loss of access to this popular freshwater fishery and the small recreation site along the shore not only represents a major lost opportunity for anglers and local communities, but also delivers a significant blow to the stocked lakes program in the Skeena Region.

Concerned about the implications of the road closure, Ben, Dana, Josh and John met to discuss priorities and potential next steps for addressing the issue. All agreed that Richmond Lake was a valuable public resource worthy of inter-agency cooperation to find a means of restoring public access.

Together, RSTBC and District Engineering (Rob) developed plans for a new sustainable access road that would be located solely on adjacent Crown land. The improved road access also provided an opportunity to upgrade

Prime Fishing Lake continued...

facilities at the small recreation site at the lake.

District Engineering and RSTBC committed funds from their respective capital funding programs. Fish and Wildlife are contributing the necessary fisheries expertise and have identified other funding sources for leveraging the project. Referrals for the road construction and site upgrades are underway, and work is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2015.



After many years, the long-standing access issues that have plagued Richmond Lake have finally been addressed through a progressive collaboration between three ministry business lines where the sharing of ideas, resources and a common goal were key to finding a successful solution.



Former ranger station still stands firm Historic building flourishes in local forestry use

Author Carole Rooney and the 100 Mile Free Press receives full credit for the article and photo
Submitted by: Chris Betuzzi, Forest Protection Officer



Forest protection officer Chris Betuzzi holds a "retro" BC Forest Service sign in front of the 1952 former Forest Rangers station, now the local base of the Cariboo Fire Centre.

There are only two old, original ranger stations known to remain in continuous government operation in British Columbia – and this one is located in 100 Mile House.

Local forest protection officer Chris Betuzzi says the station dates back to circa 1952, when the Forest Rangers held a multifaceted role in the preservation of B.C.'s wildlands and timber.

The small, barn-style white clapboard station is tucked in neatly beside the much larger and more contemporary Service BC building, which houses other forestry offices and government agents.

The former ranger station is the local base for the Cariboo Fire Centre, an arm of the Wildfire Management Branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR).

Betuzzi says he is proud of the building's heritage and enjoys working out of the old, historic building. The Cariboo Fire Centre still has a 1950s BC Forest Service sign cautioning "Observe Campfire Regulations" under the banner "Reward a Living Forest."

"There would have been half a dozen rangers plus a clerk who worked out of there, and then in the summertime, it would have been fire suppression crews. They were responsible for everything to do with

Historic Building Flourishes continued...

forest management, whereas now people tend to be a little more specialized."

After the adjacent Service BC building was built in 1985, many of the forestry-related operations moved over there, while the wildfire crews stayed behind in the former ranger station.

Betuzzi notes he and his staff mainly look after fire management, whereas most of the FLNR employees working out of the Service BC centre take care of silviculture aspects, logging permits and other day-to-day forestry needs.

The old ranger station recently had new roof shingles installed and some siding replaced where deterioration is setting in, he explains.

Betuzzi adds the building has also undergone energy updates over the past 15 years, including a new furnace, entry doors, garage door and double-paned windows, as well as better upstairs insulation.

"In the 1950s, ranger stations were built all over the province."

FLNR public affairs officer Greig Bethel says his office checked with the ministry's Heritage, Recreations Sites and Trails, its Wildfire Management branches, and the local forest district, but couldn't find anyone who could confirm or deny the 100 Mile House building is the last ranger station still in government use. (As you can see in the next article, there is at least one more ranger station still in existence in the Haida Gwaii.)

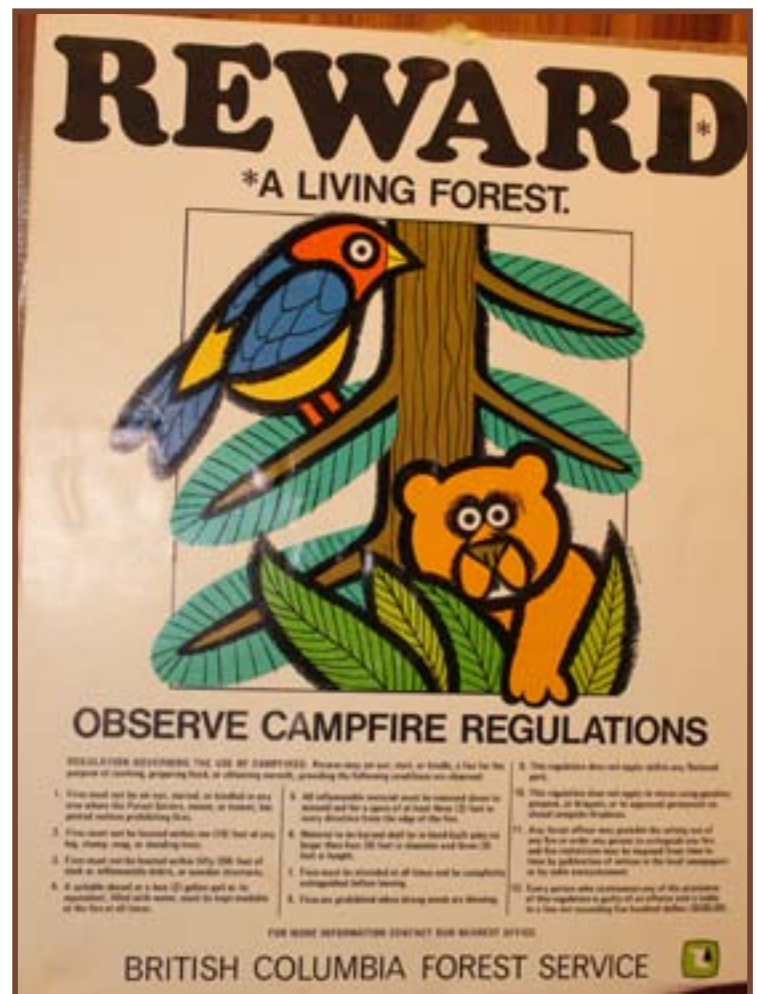
He notes if the local community wants to pursue exploring the heritage value of the old ranger station; it can contact Heritage BC for assistance at www.heritagebc.ca.

Betuzzi says there is a ranger station of a slightly different design in Clinton, but it was sold and moved from its original site (at the Clinton fire hall) more than a decade ago. It is now in private use beside the BC Ambulance station.

Meanwhile, he is happy to work from this local historic building from the bygone era of his predecessors.

"It's still fully functional and it works fine for us. It has a little warehouse attached and then office space, so for our needs in the firefighting world, it works great.

"And there is some nostalgia, which is kind of neat."



Have a Story idea?

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The Bunkhouse—Queen Charlotte City Forest Service Ranger Station

Submitted by: Alexandra Ryland, RPF, Practices Forester, BC Timber Sales - Chinook Business Area, Haida Gwaii

The Queen Charlotte City Forest Service Ranger Station in Haida Gwaii dates back to the early 1950s. Since its construction, the old Ranger Station has been in continuous use with the provincial government having many different functions. The Ranger Station became the home of the Queen Charlotte Islands Ranger District, and then transitioned into the Queen Charlotte Islands Forest District in 1979. In 1980, this new Forest District moved to another location in Queen Charlotte, leaving the old Ranger Station to become a short term residency building for district staff. Since 1980, now affectionately called the “Bunkhouse” has housed district staff who were on short-term employment, has been the residence for our summer students, and provided a place to stay for off-island provincial staff coming to Haida Gwaii for work. The Bunkhouse is equipped with a full kitchen, large living room, five bedrooms, three bathrooms, and laundry room. I myself lived in the Bunkhouse for a year and a half when I first started my forestry career in Haida Gwaii, and much of the office staff currently working for the district have a similar story.

The Bunkhouse is part of our Business Contingency Plan for the Haida Gwaii Natural Resource District; it is completely wired and able to operate as a fully functioning office space. In fact, due to a Haida blockage at the district office in 2005 the Bunkhouse was used as the district office with the bedrooms acting as the different sections within the district.

The history of the old Ranger Station/Bunkhouse and its reputation makes for a popular location to stay when coming to Haida Gwaii. During the summer months, it's hard to get a room in the Bunkhouse as the field season brings more provincial employees to the island and everyone wants to stay at the Bunkhouse. It's a great place to meet new people, reconnect with old colleagues, and is a home away from home when travelling for work.



Here's a before and after look of the Ranger Station in Queen Charlotte, Haida Gwaii, BC.

This photo is of the Queen Charlotte Forest Service Ranger Station in the 1950's. On the left is the Ranger House, and the right is the Ranger Station.

This photo is of the Ranger Station in 2015. As you can see the old Ranger House on the left still stands, however is currently unoccupied. The old Ranger Station, now affectionately known as the “Bunkhouse” is on the right.



Welcome Newsletter Advisory Group Member—Kimberly Scott, RPF



Good Day 'Dirt' readers! It is my pleasure to join the 'Dirt' team as a new member. I'm looking forward to helping employees take advantage of this dynamic and engaging platform for sharing news, stories and events with the goal of promoting unity, team spirit and imparting learnings and successes in how we do business.

I am a Tenures Forester at the Quesnel Natural Resource District and have been with the FLNR for 11 years.



BC MoT Chiefs Champs—Dan LeClerc Hockey Tournament

Submitted by: Tony Nordee, RFT, BCTS Silviculture Tech, Kamloops Field Team

Six Teams played in the 12th Annual Dan LeClerc Memorial Provincial Hockey Tournament in Logan Lake, February 20-22. All teams enjoyed a fun filled event while competing for bragging rights and the coveted trophy. After five exhaustive games the BC MoT Chiefs reigned supreme for the second year in a row. The Chiefs scored with 1:30 left on the clock to take the 5-4 win over the Swamp Donkeys in the nail biter finale. They were the only team to go undefeated during the co-ed tournament. Congratulations to "The Chiefs".

The Dan LeClerc Hockey Tournament is a fun event with all levels of players. If you have ever wanted to try out your hockey skills this is the event for you. Players and organizers are already looking forward to the 13th Annual in 2016, location to be determined.

Special thanks to FLNR health and wellness, BCTS Kamloops Timber Sales Office and many volunteers who helped make the tournament as success.



Growing Trees Bigger, Stronger and Faster with Genomics

Submitted by: Brian T. Barber, RPF, Director, Tree Improvement Branch

Did you know that approximately 60% of the 250 million seedlings planted annually in our province are derived from BC's tree improvement program? No genetic engineering is involved, but new genomics research is helping us better understand and manage our future forests.

For over 50 years, the ministry, forest companies and universities have collaborated in selecting, breeding, testing and producing trees for increased growth, wood quality and pest resistance. Conventional breeding practices are used. This includes applying pollen from one selected tree to the flower of another, collecting the seed from these crosses, growing seedlings, and planting them on several test sites. Parents of seedlings with inherited superior traits are grafted into orchards to produce operational quantities of tree seed for reforestation.

It can take over 20 years from selecting a potential parent tree to producing seed from it in an orchard. Traditional tree improvement programs are therefore not responsive to rapid environmental and economic changes. This is where genomics can help.

Genomics is the study of genes and their functions. Knowing which genes are responsible for specific traits can improve the tree breeder's phenotypic selection accuracy and efficiency. Genomics can also be used to identify traits that take years to develop or are too difficult or expensive to assess. Genomics can also be used to confirm the pedigree of exceptional... and problematic...seedlings.

Research scientists with the ministry's Tree Improvement Branch are working with Genome BC and universities on several applied forest genomics projects. For example, the AdapTree project, led by Dr. Sally Aitken, UBC, aims to identify the genes responsible for growth and climate adaptation in pine and spruce. This project was recently featured on CBC's Nature of Things: Dreams of the Future <http://www.cbc.ca/natureofthings/episodes/dreams-of-the-future>.



Douglas-fir Progeny Test site near Jordan River
Photo credit: Michael Stoehr

A new forestry genomics project, co-lead by FLNR's Dr. Michael Stoehr, is identifying genes responsible for wood density in Douglas-fir. The genomes of trees selected from a 35 year-old progeny test are being sequenced and associated with this important commercial trait. These genomes will then be compared with those of a younger population growing at another test site to validate the associations and develop a genomics selection prediction model. If successful, Dr. Stoehr could select future parent trees at the seedling stage—saving considerable time and expense.

Dr. John Russell, working at FLNR's historic Cowichan Lake Research Station, is co-leading a genomics project for Western redcedar. The wood of BC's official tree is highly valued for its durability and beauty. Its rot-resistant heartwood, however, only starts to develop after the tree is 35 to 40 years old. Redcedar growth is also adversely impacted by foliar diseases and deer

Genomics continued...

browse. Forest companies spend up to \$5/tree to protect seedlings from ungulates. Dr. Russell and his team are using samples from an older field test, rapid tree breeding and marker-assisted selection to identify genes associated with naturally-occurring chemicals produced by the tree to deter rot, leaf blight and hungry deer.

Genomics is a new and exciting forest management tool. I believe it will help us increase the value, resilience and conservation of our forests—without compromising the rich genetic diversity of our native tree species.

If you would like to learn more about genomics in forestry, please visit Genome BC's website or contact Brian Barber or the aforementioned scientists.

Dr. Sally Aitken, UBC Forestry - Photo credit: UBC



Redcedar heartwood rot and deer browse field trial
– Photos by John Russell



Gear up for Winter: Winter Guide Snowshoes

Submitted by: Daniel Becker, Natural Resource Officer, Northeast Compliance and Enforcement Branch



For a lot of us in BC the winter has left us waist deep in a snowy wonderland. Those of us who work in the field know that plowing through three feet of snow in just your winter boots can be a trial of Sisyphean proportions. Whether you are traversing a cut block or searching for a woodland stream, in the winter you need something to keep you floating above the white stuff. Recently, I was tasked with finding new snowshoes for my work unit. Budget was limited and they had to last through the rigors of frequent field work. After a lot of research and perusing the stock of many different companies, I finally settled on the Winter Guide snowshoe from Faber.

As you can see this snowshoe is unique in that it is a Hybrid snowshoe. It combines the strength of the aluminum shoe with the light weight and quietness of the traditional shoe. The frame is wood and the bindings and decking are an injected copolymer that is low temperature resistant and rugged. To be sure that they could hold up I had to test them in the field, so when the snowshoes arrived less than two weeks later I packed up the biggest pair and I hit the woods.

The first thing I noticed was how light they were. I carried them along the road for almost a kilometre and I barely noticed they were on my back. For anyone who has to hike to get to where they need snowshoes these are great. When I threw them down at the head of the trail I was surprised at how quick and easy they were to put on. The ratchet system was simple to use with my gloves on and the toe stopper kept my foot snugly in place. I will mention here that during my three hour hike the bindings kept my feet perfectly situated on the snowshoe throughout.

I really wanted to put these bad boys through their paces so I tried them through lots of varying terrain ranging from open to closed forest, up and down steep hills, and on and off the trail. The snowshoes consistently kept me afloat and were easy to walk in. As a comparison, I took them off briefly to try walking around without them and I immediately sunk up to my thighs in snow. Although I sing the praises of these snowshoes from the mountaintops there are a few things to be aware of. Like most snowshoes these were not a joy to walk backwards in because they did not have the heel stoppers that are on some of the modern snowshoes. I also had some issues walking up an incredibly steep hill because I would keep slipping backwards. Although, that hill is difficult to climb in the summer so bear that in mind.

All in all these snowshoes are great for work. They may not have some of the bells and whistles that you will find on some more expensive snowshoes, but they are reliable and effective. I ordered them online from the Faber website and they were priced around \$160 depending on which size you needed. That price point kept me well under my allotted budget and I was able to get a great snowshoe for each person in my work unit. So the next time you are looking for something to keep you floating on air around that cut block remember the Winter Guide snowshoe from Faber. <https://www.fabersnowshoes.com/snowshoes/hybride/winter-guide>

Retirees Receive *The Dirt!*

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You can contact Richard directly at: Richard.Dominy@gov.bc.ca. Don't forget our Facebook page!

Climate Changes makes the news at Whistler

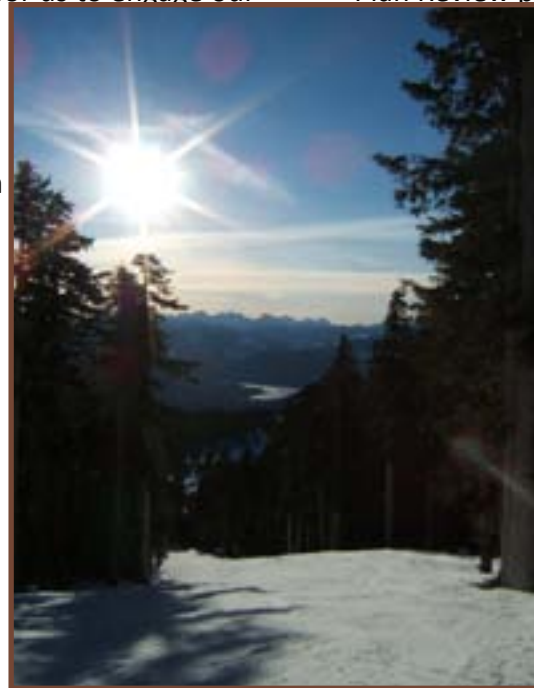
Submitted by: Bill Hunter, Senior Manager, Major Projects, Mountain Resorts Branch

The Mountain Resorts Branch Climate Action Plan Workshop was held in Whistler on March 11, 2015, as part of the branch's Climate Action Planning work. This was an opportunity for us to engage our industry group, the mountain resorts and community ski areas, to gain their insights for incorporation into our Climate Action Plan. Our Climate Action Plan will be strengthened with their input as it involves improving our understanding of the implications of climate changes to all of our clients and identifying opportunities for mitigation and adaptation to help make them more resilient to changes in the climate.

Key representatives of the industry group attended included David Lynn, President of Canada West Ski Areas Association and Arthur de Jong, Mountain Planning and Environmental Resource Manager of Whistler Blackcomb. It's important to note the diversity of ski area clients that our branch works with, from major four-season resorts like Whistler Blackcomb, to small, community ski areas, which operate seasonally. The implications of climate change and the capacity to respond to the challenges climate change brings are very different among our clients. Whistler Blackcomb has a very well developed strategy, Whistler Blackcomb's Climate Change and Resource Efficiency Strategy, and is really taking a leadership role with the diversification of their business and a comprehensive resource efficiency strategy, which saves them a lot of money in reduced energy consumption.

Most importantly, the workshop allowed us to explore opportunities for adaptation with stakeholders. For example, how can our branch best address increased wildfire hazard around existing resort communities through assessment, planning and treatment measures. How can we support the diversification

of resort based activities, like the development of mountain biking trails, through our All Seasons Resort Policy and Guidelines and the Master Plan Review process. The workshop also allows us to identify opportunities for collaboration in future.



Mt. Cain, a small community ski area located north of Campbell River, which is subject to coastal weather events has endured difficult winters in the past, including this winter.

The province's mountain resorts are an important economic driver and a cornerstone of BC's tourism industry and our Climate Action Plan is focussed on supporting their sustainability. Mountain Resorts and community ski areas also represent important health and wellness opportunities for our families and communities, which need to be sustained. Mountain Resorts and community ski areas host thousands of kids and young adults annually through school and ski club programs throughout the winter. They are venues for outdoor recreation and sport across the province, such as the ski and board events recently held at Tabor and Purden

mountains for the 2015 Canada Winter games in Prince George. These are really important public assets that provide people an opportunity to get into the mountain environments and I think that breeds a stronger appreciation of environmental values. Mountain Resorts and community ski areas can have a leadership role in responding to climate change through their own resource efficiency strategies and the education of their visitors.

All business lines of FLNR are required to complete a Climate Action Plan by March 31st as part of the ministry's Climate Change Strategy, 2013 – 2018 (<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/het/climate/strategy/index.htm>). The FLNR strategy is part of a broader provincial climate change adaptation strategy, which was initiated in 2010, see http://www.livesmartbc.ca/attachments/Adaptation_Strategy.pdf. Link to the article in the Pique Magazine: <http://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/whistler/province-workshops-ski-resort-climate-change-action-plan/Content?oid=2642559>

How A Learning Organization Thrives Despite Adversity

The Vernon Office Fire Story

Submitted by: Bob Annand R.P.F., Tenures Forester, Okanagan Shuswap Resource District

You could buy a book about how to survive a disaster or, you could ask anyone who worked in the Vernon FLNR office in 2014...

An observant security person made the early morning call on Tuesday May 20, 2014. That call and the fast action of the Vernon Fire Department saved the entire building

from destruction. However, the fire-damaged coffee room and smoke-damaged remainder of the building required extensive restoration work, keeping it out of commission and inaccessible until September. Meanwhile managers and staff worked creatively and successfully to provide client services. That's the short story.

Behind the scenes, a saga of business continuity is worth telling.

It's one of a manager's worst nightmares – waking up to a call from police that your office is on fire. Adrenaline courses through your veins as your imagination takes over during those early hours when few facts exist. The blessings, though, start pouring in. No one is hurt. The fire is contained to the lunchroom. The building's integrity is maintained. Paper files are intact. Equipment is smoke damaged, but much of it is salvageable. Phew, deep breath. But now, how best to help staff cope, maintain business continuity and manage the restoration?

Subconsciously, the disciplines of our Learning Organization kicked in.

- Relationships, possibilities, and then action is the



winning combination used to generate goodwill and opportunities to work with the various FLNR and other provincial government offices in Vernon, Penticton and Kelowna. Only with this generous provision of temporary office space and equipment was work possible for the displaced

people during the transition period.

- Conversation with staff was constant from Day 1 at Ground Zero to Day 100 at homes and offices throughout Vernon and Salmon Arm—by phone, text, Lync, email, and face-to-face to ensure safety and business needs met.
- A Vision shared by all to “Keep It Going” and Aligned Values ensured our clients’ needs were met.
- Teams learned from each other to overcome obstacles and improve effectiveness.
- Masters of technology shared their expertise.
- We challenged the paradigms of normal business practices (and sometimes asking for forgiveness rather than permission).
- Systems thinking (think Shared Services) and “Systems” contributed greatly to our ability to maintain service. We all grumble on occasion about our systems glitches, but we need to give credit to the brains behind the many government computer systems we can access from almost anywhere to keep us in business.

Today, almost a year after the devastating building fire of 2014, you could look around the office and be hard pressed to find the slightest indication of disruption. And yet ask any of the +/- 100 people

The Vernon Office Fire Story continued...



from DOS, BCTS, Agriculture, and other FLNR agencies stationed on site and they will tell you that for months afterwards their work practices were anything but standard.

Ask we did, and on October 15, 2014, an “Out of the Fire” Debrief and BBQ was held to recognize staff efforts over the previous 5 months and to provide an opportunity to share stories on how we survived and thrived. During that day we were able to detail what went well, the challenges we faced, and what any office might want to consider doing differently in the event of a business disruption. The learnings continue to this day.

FLNR STAFF VOLUNTEER AT CANADA WINTER GAMES IN PRINCE GEORGE

Submitted by: Shawn Rice, RPF, Resource Manager. Prince George Natural Resource District



FLNR STAFF VOLUNTEER AT CANADA WINTER GAMES continued...

The Canada Winter Games is a national celebration of youth, sport, culture and community. This event is held every 4 years and this year, Prince George was the city chosen to host the event. It is the largest multi-sport and cultural event to ever be held in northern British Columbia and has been forecasted to generate an economic impact of over \$90 million while building champions and inspiring dreams amongst Canadian youth.

Prince George, together with the Official Host First Nation, the Lheidli T'enneh, was the first city in British Columbia to host a winter edition of the Canada Games. The 2015 Canada Winter Games included:

- Athletes from over 800 communities from across Canada;
- 19 sports ranging from traditional winter, traditional summer, Paralympic and Special Olympic;
- Over 2,400 young Canadian athletes—ranging in age from 12 – 35;
- Over 1,000 coaches, team managers and officials;
- 13 teams: 10 provinces and 3 territories;
- 18 days of the 2015 Canada Winter Games; and
- 14 days of official competition.

In order for an event of this magnitude to be successful, a lot of volunteers are required—over 3000 to be precise. This is where the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations shone. Approximately 35 staff (plus retirees and staff from other ministries) volunteered in a wide range of positions including minor officials, transportation, security, planning, language services, environmental services, opening and closing ceremonies, spectator services and much more. Staff even participated as dancers in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. What is even more amazing is the number of hours that staff volunteered. Each person's volunteer commitment during the 18 days of the Games ranged from 30 hours to over 200 hours. This represented a total of over 1,800 volunteer hours, not including the many hours put into the planning prior to the official start of the Games.

When volunteers were asked why they volunteered, it was evident it was not just to get the two matching vacation days Prince George staff were offered by the

ministry to participate as Games Volunteers. Some of the responses included "The opportunity to be a part of a great experience for Prince George", "I saw it as a once in a lifetime opportunity", "We did it as a family because it was a unique experience to be involved in", "This was my time to contribute back to sport in the capacity of coach, minor official, competition planner", "I wanted to do my part to make it successful", "Because I love my club and my city and I wanted to be a part of something really magical", "Found the experience of volunteering in other events rewarding", "Give back to the community I live in", "Because it is a great event for the city", "I wanted to be part of the team" and "This is probably the best community building exercise I've seen in Prince George in 20 years and I wanted to be a part of it".

Whenever an event of this caliber occurs, the experiences that come with it will be remembered forever. My greatest experience was having other volunteers thanking me for selecting them to volunteer as hockey minor officials. My response back to them was, "thank you". Some of the greatest experiences identified by our great volunteers include "Seeing two amazing, accomplished local athletes win gold", "Seeing my family give their time and feeling so good about it", "The hype created by the pin collecting", "Meeting the athletes and the coaching staff", "Watching my daughter participate in the torch bearer parade", "Meeting other volunteers", "Touching base with interesting people from all over Canada", "Working very closely with Katie Witt and Melissa K Soligo, both alumni of past Scotties Tournament of Hearts", "Watching other teams help out teams in need" and "Seeing the paranordic skiers overcome physical limitations to compete at high levels".

I think one of the greatest responses from our volunteers was "Knowing that I contributed to the overall success". This is what it was all about, making this event the best it can be for the City of Prince George and for the Province of British Columbia. We thank the ministry for supporting this opportunity. As volunteers, we won gold!

The Bluegrass Connection

Intro by Richard Dominy MBA, MF, R.P.F., Business Application Forester, Business Information Section
Interview with Terry Sullivan, Director, Major Projects, Skeena Region for CICK magazine

Hello fellow readers! I have known Terry Sullivan for a long time and we were colleagues when working in BC Timber Sales—at the time, Terry was the Planning Officer in Chilliwack. About a year and a half ago I travelled up to Smithers to visit family and friends and dropped in to see Terry—as he had recently accepted a new position there. I remember it was a Saturday, market square day, and I noticed a nicely painted old train carriage in the background—and when I asked Terry about it he told me the rail car was actually the Smithers Community Radio broadcasting studio and that he had a radio show there called The Bluegrass Connection broadcasting every Wednesday night from 8-9pm. I was intrigued and immediately thought this would be of interest to our ministry staff in this newsletter!!

When I asked Terry more about his new role in the ministry and the show, Terry beamed and said he loved working in the Skeena Region and he seemed to really embrace the sense of community and passion for sustainability in Smithers. Terry mentioned that doing the show every week gives him some time and space to focus on one of his own passions—acoustic music!

You can listen to CICK live at www.smithersradio.com, and you can listen to previously-recorded Bluegrass Connection shows anytime at <http://www.smithersradio.com/stationprogram/bluegrass-connection>

This interview is re-printed with permission from the Smithers Community Radio magazine, SIC, with special thanks to Matt, Ken and Glen.

Bluegrass Connection - Interview with Terry for CICK magazine

1. When did you first start doing a show on Smithers Community Radio (CICK 93.9 FM) and how did it all come about?

It's kinda funny how it all came about. I moved to Smithers in late October of 2012, and about 6 months prior to that, while living in Chilliwack, I had contacted the local radio station (non-community radio) to see if they would support a late night Bluegrass Show - like on a Friday night from 12-1am. The Chilliwack radio station was pretty mainstream, and I think had a heavy rock scene going on, from what I could gather. SO, of course, they denied my request for a bluegrass music show as "it didn't match with the stations objectives" or some other reason...

Fast forward 6 months, on my first or second day at work in Smithers, a colleague of mine, Ken White (FLNRO regional entomologist) let me know he was involved with a Community Radio Station called CICK 93.9 FM. I could tell Ken had a deep appreciation of music and through a great conversation with Ken, I ended up sitting in with him during one of his shows - and shortly after that I had my own show.....November 28, 2012 was my first show and the first song I played was from my favorite Tony Rice album called Manzanita.



Bluegrass Connection continued...



2. What's your show name/idea/concept?

My show is called The Bluegrass Connection and the idea is to make connections through acoustic music. It amazes me, how in the bluegrass music world the incredible level of collaboration and support between musicians. It seems to me the musicians are playing music simply for the love of it, and end up playing on other artists' albums as collaborators and supporters. If you pick up any modern bluegrass album and read the credits, you can often discover amazing connections between musicians that come up over and over again. It's a wonderful thing. I try to make some of these connections known during the songs I play on my show.

3. How has the show evolved since you first started broadcasting?

When I first started doing my shows, I would often have specific themes and did a lot of background research collecting the facts and items I wanted to communicate to the listeners. And, it's evolved quite a bit since then - in that I can prepare for a show in about 10 minutes instead of two days! Now, I mostly wing it, have fun, and find myself heading down a certain path just because of a particular song

I've played and end up in some interesting places musically. On one night, I was playing some Led Zeppelin only because John Paul Jones produced (and plays bass on a few tracks) on an excellent album from Sara Watkins - a beautiful bluegrass singer and fiddle player. These are the connections I love. And, John Paul Jones recently toured with Gillian Welch and the David Rawlings Machine. Now that would be a cool show!

4. Tell me a bit about what it's like for you being on the air with your show?

Being on the air is a blast! At first I found myself a little nervous and maybe a little too serious or stuffy on the air - but at the end of the day, it's a community radio station and, the way I see it, people expect volunteers in the community to be themselves and not so serious - so I've become much more relaxed and have a hoot week after week. I especially love being in the studio - in the old VIA Rail car - it's a cool feeling knowing the rail car had probably been back 'n forth across the province or even Canada a few hundred times! I have to acknowledge the CICK board of directors and all the community sponsors for making this whole thing possible. CICK is a very cool gig.

Bluegrass Connection continued...

5. Maybe can you pick out a highlight experience you've had (live guest perhaps) and describe what it was like?

I've had a few cool experiences on the show - the first was when Jenny Lester was a guest. Jenny brought her guitar with her and played 4 or 5 songs on the air, and we talked about music for almost the entire show. It was a memorable experience listening and watching Jenny play an old favorite song of mine called Bury Me Beneath the Willow Tree. Jenny is incredibly talented and I love her voice and guitar playing - her songs and feelings can bring you to tears they are so beautiful. I felt lucky to be a part of the moment.

Also Jason and Pharis Romero were guests on my show in April 2014 and played some wonderful music and we had a bunch of laughs during the interview - I'm really proud of these guys for their hard work and passion for the music they are making. I honestly think Jason and Pharis are the best old time/traditional style musicians on the planet and am really excited they're planning to release some new music this year and beyond! I expect to see some big things from Jason and Pharis in the music industry.

My most recent highlight was interviewing Steve Dawson and learning about his plans for music - as he's moved from Vancouver to Nashville. Steve Dawson is one of the best guitar players I've ever heard, and is making a name for himself in the recording/session player scene down in music city. He's a really big deal. I'm really proud to know all these guys are from right here in BC and are some of the best in the world at what they do....making music!

6. Anything else you'd like to share about your show, being on the station, etc.?

Well....I hope that one day, some young kid in Smithers will tune into the Bluegrass Connection on CICK and hear Tony Rice or Mark O'Connor for the first time.....and just maybe they'll end up listening and playing more

Submit an Article to *The Dirt* and receive a Notebook

Don't forget about
The Dirt Facebook



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

GOLD RUSH SLUSH - RESULTS

NRS Provincial Bonspiel, Quesnel March 6, 7, 2015

Submitted by: Steve Dodge - Retiree



For the second year in a row, the FLNR Quesnel District office hosted the Provincial Bonspiel with all the pomp and ceremony, great curling, cold beverages and high quality dancing that has made the Bonspiel a recurring classic.

The opening ceremonies on Friday once again featured 2 members of the Quesnel Pipes and Drums (Lisa McCargar Piper and Quesnel Districts own Kim Scott on Drum) who are both RPF's, leading all the teams onto the ice. Newly elected Quesnel Mayor Bob Simpson and Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg were on hand to welcome the participants to the Gold Pan City with the very energetic Cariboo North MLA/ Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development Coralee Oakes on hand to thank and encourage the participants. The packed banquet on Saturday night was held up stairs in the lounge and was once again transformed into an 1860's Gold plated Saloon. A buffet dinner was served by the very capable concession crew of Joanne and Troy. Although the late draws on Saturday night limited the amount of time to twist the night away, several teams were represented at the Cariboo Hotels packed dance floor.

- Winners of Door prizes were: Darrell Ashworth, Megan Strand, Steve Kozuki and Gerry MacDougall.

"A" Event

Winners: Spencer Atkins, John Hoyrup, Mike Pedersen, Darcy Lillico (Williams Lake)
 Second: Brenda Ernst, Ed Hewitt, Don Ernst, Whitney Christie (Quesnel)
 Third: Alex Norquay, Kevin Dickenson, Gerry MacDougall, Rick Manwaring (W Lake, Kamloops)
 Fourth: Desi Cheverie, Lynn Ann Cheverie, Dave Keely, Deb Keely (W Lake, Kamloops)

"B" Event

Winners: Dave Marek, Ken Pratt, Mike Rowden, Phil Madeley (Kamloops and PG)
 Second: Kevin Bertram, Stephanie Mooney, Jerry Mooney, Darryl Ashworth (Victoria, W Lake)
 Third: Steve Dodge, Alison Dodge, Dot Manulak, Lee Naeth (Quesnel)
 Fourth: Brenda Sanford, Judy Janzen, Deneen Bonar, Caroline Harvey (W Lake, PG)

"C" Event

Winners: Al Collins, Al Baker, Garry Horley, Ian Hannah (Quesnel)
 Second: Steve Kozuki, Grant Johannesen, Bob Keen, Cindy Keen (W Lake and Quesnel)
 Third: Leah Hubensky, Barb Pratt, Sandra Wagner, Christine Unghy (PG, W Lake, Quesnel)
 Fourth: Herb Roodenburg, Calvin Groll, Sue Pelletier, Christine Turlet (Quesnel)

SEE PDF BONSPIEL VERSION ON PAGE 2

Gold Rush Slush (Stay Calm and Rock On) Hacks, Hogs and Hallelujah:

- The Thrill of Victory (2014) and Agony of Defeat (2015) Award to the Gord Pratt team who somehow won the A event last year and finished dead last this year?
- Hurry, Hurry Hard to the Williams Lake Office for volunteering to host the 2016 event
- Hallelujah to Rick Manwaring for his attendance and "motivating" Mike Pedersen to volunteer to host next year.
- A Hog and a Hack to all the curlers in the North who missed out on the Quesnel Hospitality. Hopefully Williams Lake will welcome you next year?
- Thanks to the organizing squad of Dot "Accoutrement" Manulak, Grant "Prizes" Johannesen, Ray "Almost MC" Jungaro, Bob "On the Fence" Keen, "Bad, Bad" Leroy Naeth, Garry "Cheese" Horley, Calvin "Trophy Hunter" Groll, Lee-ann "Button Pusher" Puhallo, Christine "Moneypenny" Unghy, Deb "Helping Hands" Brinkert and Kim "Little Drummer Girl" Scott and Nicole "We are Family" Strand!

A Event: John Hoyrup, Spencer Atkins, Darcy Lillico, Mike Pedersen



B Event: Dave Marek, Ken Pratt, Mike Rowden, Phil Madeley



C Event: Al Baker, Ian Hannah, Al Collins, Garry Horley



2015 Headquarters Funspiel

Submitted by: George Silvestrini, Timber Pricing Branch

The 47th annual HQ Funspiel was held on Saturday February 21, 2015, at the Glen Meadows Curling Club. Sixteen teams participated in the traditionally friendly, ice-breaker event. The emphasis was on socializing and reconnecting with friends and colleagues as the teams hit the ice in the mid-afternoon. Each team played three short games, with breaks in the curling lounge and a buffet dinner. This year's theme was "TV shows" which brought out some interesting interpretations.

This year the big winners were:

1st place: Tim Lilburn, Kelly Ketcheson, Ed Sabadash and Darell Scott (missing)

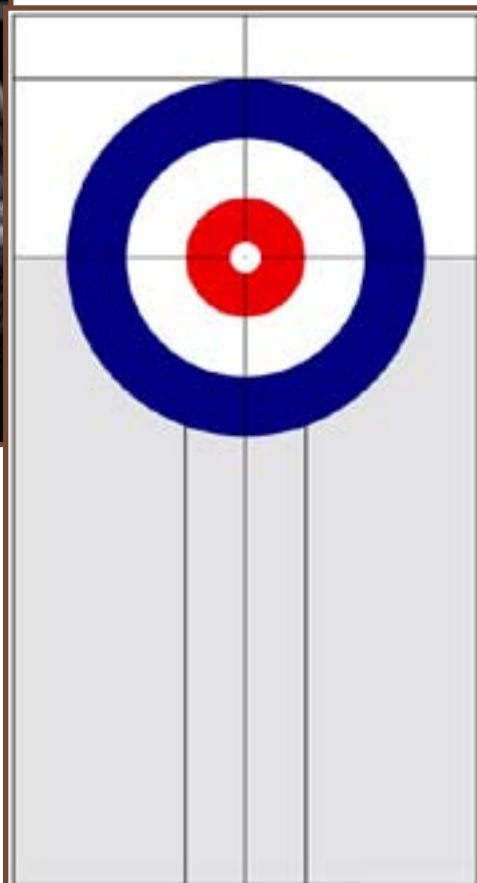


2nd place: Buck Cowden, Gail Silvestrini and George Silvestrini



HQ Funspiel continued...

3rd place: Dean Hardman, Elise Hardman, Debra Croghan and Moira Beckford



Best dressed: Michelle Schwabe, Duane Chapman, Lynn Sam, Ray Tomana - The Flintstones

Event photos are available for a short time by contacting the organizing committee.

[SEE PDF FUNSPIEL VERSION PAGE 2](#)

We all enjoyed ourselves and are looking forward to doing it all again next year. So mark your calendar now for next year's event on Saturday, February 20, 2016.

2015 Funspiel organizing committee: Stephen Simonds, Scott Sharp, Mark Jousi, Charlie Klasen George Silvestrini, Don Rorison, Steve Darvill and Grant Loeb.

44th ANNUAL - ALEXIS CREEK BC FOREST SERVICE TRAPSHOOT

Submitted by: Brian Rosengren, RPF, Stewardship Forester, Cariboo-Chilcotin Natural Resource District

COME AND JOIN US FOR THE LONGEST RUNNING FOREST SERVICE EVENT!

It'll be a BLAST!



When: May 23rd, 2015

Where: Alexis Creek Rifle Range

Why: To carry on a great Forest Service tradition!

How: in Teams of 5 or individually

Events:

- T-Shirt design contest – You could be famous – entries by **May 8th**-contact Jason Kerley for more details (250) 394-4249
- Dinner Saturday evening
 - Beans, Salads and fixins' provided - Bring your own meat
 - Cost included for shooters
 - \$5.00ea for additional adults \$3.00 for kids
- Breakfast - Saturday (by donation, proceeds to A.C. Rod & Gun Club Range), Concession available - Saturday
- Practice rounds until 10:30am Saturday
- Main Event > 25 shots, 15 trap – 10 skeet, best team score
- Annie Oakley - \$5.00ea/round 1st round proceeds to Kevin Frittenburg Memorial Fund; 2nd round 50/50
- .22 Shoots – Ladies: \$5.00 Kids: Free

T-Shirts: Included with entry (extras \$20.00 ea)

Cost: \$34.00/Shooter \$170.00/Team **BEFORE May 21st (Team registration form must be completed)**

****Cost Increases to \$39.00/Shooter \$195.00/Team after May 21st, 2015****

Entry includes one box of shells/entry. Additional shells \$10.00/box \$2.00 for practice round if you have your own shells.

Free Camping available on site Friday and Saturday

>>>> Visiting team door prize donations welcome <<<<

For information contact: Brian Rosengren (250) 394-4710

Mike Pedersen (250) 398-4400 or Jason Kerley (250) 398-4249

SEE PDF TRAP SHOOT VERSION ON PAGE 2



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 five 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!!

(embroidery: *The Dirt* - Newsletter Advisory Group)

Prizes

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

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;
- 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 dots per inch (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 should also be included – category of image and location.
6. All images submitted, whether or not selected as a winning image, may be published in future issues of the newsletter.

For further information, contact:

FLNRNews@gov.bc.ca

DEADLINE IS June 19, 2015

Don't forget to try your hand at writing a limerick or poem. Send *The Dirt* Advisory Group your ideas!

March Edition Photo Contest Winners!

Wildlife Category - Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary

Photographer - Jennifer Dowd, Business Portfolio Manager, CSNR



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

Workplace Category - Part of my job is to inspect loggers and their TSLs. Inspection of a block that required sled access—had to ski in!

Photographer - Sarah Campbell, FIT, Forest Technician, BCTS



Have a photo for the next “Photo Contest?”
Review the contest guidelines and send your photo’s
to the *FS News* Advisory Group!

Scenic Category - Sunrise of Schubert. Taken on way to work. The sun rises with the reflection of Mount Peter and Paul. The reflection in the North Thompson River makes it appear as though there are lips kissing Kamloops in the morning.

Photographer - Janet Ford, Portfolio Administrator, Mountain Resorts Branch



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



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

Sonia Donison is providing management and coordination support 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 before writing a story. Stories are to be submitted no later than 2 weeks prior to each quarterly edition—deadline for articles is June 19, 2015



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES