



Forest Service

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A newsletter for Ministry of Forests employees

July-August 1992

Rick Miller gets five-figure award

Forest Minister **Dan Miller** recently presented timber harvesting branch's **Rick Miller** (no relation) with a suggestion award certificate and a \$17,010 cheque.

Rick, an administration officer, made a suggestion to the provincial government suggestion awards program that allows timber harvesting branch to avoid duplication of effort when statussing areas to be harvested.

Now clearance for areas available for potential harvesting can be processed in about one week rather than six. This has resulted in staff time savings of \$113,400.

His suggestion was evaluated by



Dan Miller presents Rick Miller with suggestion award.

timber harvesting branch members **Jane Spackman**, manager,

administration and technical services, and **Olga Kopriva**, drafting superintendent.

Nick Krischanowsky, executive coordinator, management services division, **Marilyn Seifert**, Forest Service suggestion awards coordinator, **Pat Wolfe**, manager and **Thelma Fayle**, administrator, government employee suggestion program, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations, were on hand at the presentation to congratulate Rick on his award.

submitted by Marilyn Seifert, coordinator, legal and policy services, technical and administrative services branch

Cuthbert's AAC tour: timber supply review goes on road

When **John Cuthbert** took the timber supply review message on the road, he did so in great rock tour style . . . courtesy of **Elizabeth MacMillan**.

MacMillan, research officer, timber supply planning, integrated resources branch, designed an attractive turquoise t-shirt, complete with planning time-lines and 'tour' dates to promote the chief forester's informational tour of the province this spring.

Between March and May, **Cuthbert** visited all the forest regions and spoke to Forest Service staff, industry groups, and members of the B.C. environmental network on the timber supply review process and the need to change allowable annual cuts.

Many allowable annual cuts, established in the early 1980s, are now out of date and need to be revised to account for changes in forest land-use and management practices. The review will update the timber supply analysis to adequately reflect current integrated

resource management in each of the province's 35 timber supply areas.

"We are trying to get a 'snapshot' of current timber supply and develop 'what is' scenarios by improving our analysis methods," explained **MacMillan**.

While **MacMillan** was modest about her design and display artistry, her marketing abilities shone as she noted that a limited number of the t-shirts signed by the chief forester (and soon to be valuable collectors' items?) were still available for \$21.50.



Elizabeth MacMillan's 'Become one of the Beautiful People' Cuthbert tour t-shirt display, with Myles Mana, timber analysis forester, and the chief forester's secretary, Marg Nicholls, moonlighting as models.

Please distribute to all employees at their work stations

Amendments to Forest Act give Forest Service more authority

Three important acts, approved by the legislature this summer, amend the *Forest Act* to improve the Forest Service's ability to manage and protect the province's forest resources.

Changes to administration of major forest tenures

The first enhances the public's benefits from forests by increasing the consistency and fairness in administering forest tenures and determining allowable annual cuts.

"It allows for planning that balances the economic, recreational, and environmental benefits we expect from our forest resources," Forest Minister **Dan Miller** said when he introduced the legislation in June.

The amendment requires that new allowable annual cuts for all timber supply areas and tree farm licences be determined by December 31, 1995. After that, the cuts must be updated every five years.

While allowable annual cuts for tree farm licences are set every five years, many timber supply area cuts have not been reviewed since the early 1980s.

This amendment also improves the Forest Service's ability to enforce reforestation obligations, and protects the public's financial interests in the resource by improving controls over the marking, scaling, and movement of logs and reducing the risk of lost revenues.

Interim measures to protect conservation values

The second provides the Forest Service with interim measures to ensure that conservation values are not lost while decisions are being made under the new 'protected areas strategy.'

Road-building and harvesting activities can be modified or suspended to protect a specified study area. Following Cabinet approval of an

interim management strategy, the chief forester can temporarily reduce a management unit's allowable annual cut.

The act also enables the Forest Service to restore the harvesting rights to the original tenure holder, depending on the area's final designation.

New authority to protect recreation resources

The third clarifies the Forest Service's role in recreation management and provides new authority to enable better management and protection of recreation resources. British Columbians make more than 40 million recreational visits annually to provincial forests.

"Different recreation resource users have complained, in the past, that their experiences were being negatively affected by other incompatible uses," **Bill Marshall**, senior recreation forester, recreation branch, says.

"We now have the authority to designate areas for one type of use or another to eliminate these conflicts. This will help provide recreational opportunities that meet people's expectations."

Signs and notices will be posted to inform the public of regulations governing the use of particular areas. Recreation officers will be able to stop people and request identification to allow for the enforcement of regulations.

The amendment also enables the formal designation of interpretive forest sites. About 50 of these sites, typically under 1 000 hectares, are established throughout the province. They provide outdoor classrooms for the discussion of the nature and management of forests.

This amendment addresses more than a decade of public demand for better management of forest recreation resources.

News in brief

Recent news releases

- Legislative committee to review lumber supply to remanufacturers - #51
- Public's comments invited on Small Business Forest Program report - #54
- New Forest Service building in McBride opens July 3 - #57
- Forest Service studying alternative harvesting methods - #61
- Forest fires consuming protection budget - #64
- Changing values reflected in cut reduction for Sunshine Coast timber supply area - #65
- Memorial scholarship established - #66
- Report says B.C.'s forests as diverse as ever - #67
- Transfer of cutting rights and mill sale approved - #69
- Government orders stream rehabilitation on Vancouver Island - #75

All-female team breaks fire olympics barrier

This year's Fire Suppression Olympics in the Lillooet forest district saw an all-female team compete for the first time.

The team from Clearwater included **Tammy Anderson**, silviculture resource assistant, and timber resource assistants, **Sandi Christianson** and **Lisa Maxwell**. It was coached by **Abbey Bates**, small business forester.

The women competed well and beat all-male teams in a number of events and finished ahead of a provincial rapattack entrant in the heli-pad construction competition.

Mel Monteith, district manager, credits the district's successful fire suppression program to the fact that all staff are trained to fight wild fires.

Aleza Lake Research Forest re-opens

The Aleza Lake Research Forest in Prince George was officially re-opened July 9 before 150 Forest Service staff, guests and northern silviculture committee members.

The 8 000-hectare research forest was established in 1924 but was closed in 1963 due to funding limitations. It is the oldest research forest in the province.

Paul Ramsey, Prince George-North MLA and parliamentary secretary to the forests minister, was assisted in the ribbon-cutting by **Marion DeGrace**, widow of **Larry DeGrace**, who worked at Aleza from 1949 to 1952.

Kathleen Hellenius, widow of **Rolf Hellenius**, who worked at the forest from 1951 to 1964, presented **Harry Coates**, research technician, with a guest book from the research forest dating back to 1929.

Both **Harry Coates** and **John Revel**, silviculture special projects, received plaques for their persistence and dedication in having the forest re-opened.

Aleza Lake is a working forest and contains examples of 60-year-old selection harvesting and forest management of uneven-aged stands. The re-opening of the forest allows this research to continue and new projects to begin.

The forest demonstrates northern



Marion De Grace and Paul Ramsey cut ribbon to officially re-open the Aleza Lake Research Forest.

spruce-balsam forest types and has more than five kilometres of self-guided trails for public enjoyment.

The forest will be managed under a 10-year plan completed jointly by the Prince George forest region, the Prince

George forest district and Northwood Pulp and Timber Ltd.

*submitted by Jeff Elder,
communications officer, Prince George
forest region*

Forest danger ratings climb

An intense lightning storm in the southern half of the province in late June caused more than 350 new fires, 150 in the Kamloops forest region alone. More than 23 000 lightning strikes were recorded.

The Stone and Eagle fires near Prince George provided a few tense days in the first week of July, but crews eventually brought both fires under control. At their peak, the fires required more than 590 fire fighters as well as the overhead, fire administrative support, and fire information support specialty teams. The Stone fire covered 1 470 hectares

and the Eagle fire consumed 2 168 hectares.

A high pressure ridge over the province in the last week of July saw forest danger ratings climb with many areas in the high and extreme hazard range.

As of July 30, 1 603 fires have been reported since the season began April 15. People have been the cause of 808 of these fires and lightning has caused 795. The fires have burned 17 509 hectares.

*submitted by Sylvia Pang, manager,
communications, protection branch*

Comings and goings

New ADM -- On August 3, **Thea Vakil** became the new assistant deputy minister of management services. She has an MSc in business administration and has been with the civil service since 1985, most recently as assistant deputy minister and secretary to the Treasury Board.

Editor off to Games -- **Ben Pires**, manager, writing services, public affairs branch, and *Forest Service* editor has been seconded to the Commonwealth Games as director of communications for two years.

New wave communications: the age of community liaison

Public involvement and consultation. These are not new concepts to the Forest Service.

But a new approach is emerging at both the regional and district levels.

Community liaison is the buzzword. It involves a more proactive approach: providing the community with a 'listening post' and a public education outlet on a continuing basis — not just when input is required in the planning process nor as a reaction to requests for information.

The emergence of this new approach stems from the need for a different level of communication. The public and the media want it, and this means more accountability.

Some credit the new government's "open and honest" approach to doing business, with its Freedom of Information Act as the vanguard.

This feature explores some general aspects of the community liaison idea by profiling some of the new practitioners at the district and regional levels. It also focusses on Nancy Argyle, Vancouver forest region's new public information officer, and her experiences with the "mother of all" communications projects, the Asian gypsy moth eradication program conducted in Vancouver in April.

Regional and district views on community liaison

Last fall, **Nancy Argyle** became an enthusiastic new employee in the Forest Service. Her position — public information officer for the Vancouver region — had been vacant for almost a decade.

Regional and district public information officer positions were axed in the early 1980s during the 'restraint' period.

This could not have happened at a worse time: the public's growing interest, changing expectations, and increasing vocalization of their views on forest management and forest values were taking centre stage.

The elimination of communication specialists in the 1980s is felt by many to have greatly compromised the Forest Service's public image and credibility.

However, following on the heels of increased public demands for accountability in forest management, approval was given last year to restaff communications positions in the six regions.

So far two have been hired: **Argyle** in Vancouver and **Jeff Elder** for Prince George.

Communications audit reveals need for new ethic

Argyle's first task was to canvass the nine forest districts in her region by doing a communications audit — she wanted to find out what they had been doing, what wasn't working, and what they would like to be doing.

One of the things she discovered was the diversity of the districts. Their communication requirements were quite different. But there were some common threads running through the small group discussions.

"I kept hearing over and over again that for a very large ministry, internal communications were weak. People felt isolated in their positions. As a result, morale was low. There was little sense of team spirit or camaraderie. And it seemed to be the general feeling that if we communicated better with each other we would learn to communicate better with the public. It will certainly be no easy task to straighten some of this around — it requires some rethinking throughout our organization."

After completing her communications audit, Argyle had an immediate chance to translate some of what she learned into action when a secondment to the communications team for the Asian gypsy moth eradication project came through in December (see related story page 6).

Public education: making forestry relevant

With that project completed, Argyle is now concentrating on one of the most important aspects of the job: public education.

"Forestry does not directly impact on the lives of urban dwellers the way it does to people in the small communities in B.C. who count on it for their survival.

"Somehow we must make forestry relevant to people living in the lower mainland because this area will produce many of the province's future decision makers."

She is coordinating a group of speakers to give presentations to elementary schools. But ultimately she feels forestry topics should become an integral part of a child's education.

"In Ontario they have produced a text book and curriculum materials. That would really be the best way — to have teachers teach it."

Getting the information out of desk drawers

Elder has been the regional communications officer for Prince George since February. With a background as a freelance writer and producer for television, and as a communications consultant to the Alberta Ministry of Energy, Elder is well aware of the importance of getting the message out.

"Because of the increased focus on forestry today, much of what we do is telling people, whether school groups or industry or service clubs, who we are and what we do — sort of getting the information out of people's desk drawers."

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Elder is working on a communication plan to identify some of the areas where communications can be improved, both internally and externally.

"It will help us decide how to use all the resources we have. Much of what I deal with on a daily basis are information requests from the public. For instance, I'm updating and expanding an informal booklet on the region that was done internally. We really have nothing to give to people when they ask for regional information."

District community liaison

At the district level there is a small but growing emphasis on the community liaison role. A variety of approaches are being tried.

Bach: the identifiable face in the community

Cranbrook's **Greg Bach** has been recreation officer for six years, plus public involvement officer for the last four.

He took a two-month hiatus recently to join the gypsy moth team in Vancouver as community liaison officer.

Bach supplied operational information to community groups, the media, special interest groups, municipal politicians, and the public and brought these groups' concerns to the attention of the operational decision-making team.

"It was like a combination of fighting a forest fire, where you are the good guy, and of timber harvesting in somebody's watershed, where you are the bad guy," says Bach describing his experience with the project.

Although the media coverage of gypsy moth was intense, he found there were not as many complexities involved with the program as in a timber harvesting situation.

Back at Cranbrook, work on a local resource use plan for the Moyie Lake area has required public involvement



Greg Bach, community liaison officer for gypsy moth project operations.

from different user groups, agencies, and residents. It is a high-visibility area and quite controversial.

For Bach this means many meetings.

"Much of that is trying to make sure that the Forest Service is more than just the 'Forest Service,' that there is somebody from the Forest Service that people know and can talk to about different things."

"We have always tried to have an identifiable face in our community," Bach says of his community liaison role.

Wells: the community 'listening post'

Terry Wells of Prince George forest district agrees.

"Quite frankly, sometimes people just want to have a chat."

Wells was seconded to the position of district community liaison officer in May. He describes himself as an "oldtimer," having been with the Forest Service in the Prince George forest region for 27 years.

"I know a lot of people after this many years, and for liaising that is not a bad asset," he admits.

During his short tenure, Wells has been busy developing a communications strategy for the district.

"We want to expand our range of information and communicate better and more frequently."

"We need to find out who we want to talk to, what it is we want to talk to them about, and, of course, develop the opportunities for them to talk to us."

"So we are developing a communications strategy that enables us to listen better, so that we act as a 'listening post' and share our information with those who are interested."

Wells believes that in a large forest district like Prince George, part of this communications strategy should involve taking some of the planning process out to the more rural communities.

"We should get out to them rather than sitting in this huge building expecting them to come to us."

Neill: rebuilding trust

Emma Neill joined the Port Alberni district as community liaison officer in June.

This district has been a veritable Pandora's box of controversy in the past, with Clayoquot Sound as a particular hot spot. There is bitterness and resentment by those employed by the forest industry in the area and by environmentalists.

A recent resource management graduate from U.B.C., Neill got a good grounding in community issues by conducting summer woods tours for MacMillan Bloedel.

She hopes her community liaison position will be seen as an impartial one and one that will heal old wounds.

"There are obviously many people out there who aren't happy with what is going on. But if they can identify someone within the organization who will stand up for their interests, maybe they will develop more trust in the Forest Service and see that we are not just bending over backwards for the forestry industry."

Neill believes that by taking a proactive approach many potentially contentious issues can be defused before they develop.

"If we can do that, then we will be accomplishing a lot."

Asian gypsy moth project praised for innovative communications

The Asian gypsy moth, one of the most serious insect pests known, was found in the Vancouver area in 1991 during a routine trapping program conducted by Agriculture Canada.

*In mid-April, the provincial cabinet declared an environmental emergency under the Pesticide Control and Plant Protection acts. The scheduled aerial and ground spraying of a natural pesticide *Bacillus thuringiensis var kurstaki* (Btk) to eradicate the moth was moved up when warm spring weather accelerated the moth's hatching cycle.*

The Forest Service and Agriculture Canada conducted a communication program to inform the public about the eradication project, which was a federal/provincial venture.

Nancy Argyle, Vancouver forest region's public information officer was the communication team's director. The following are excerpts of a recent interview.

An open and honest approach: a new communication ethic

Before the gypsy moth assignment, I conducted a communications audit for my region and learned about the problems with internal communications and the Forest Service's public image.

It was clear that a new approach was needed.

So I ended up trying some new approaches in the gypsy moth project.

We had a six-member team: **Bruce D'Andrea** and **Jon Bell** from Agriculture Canada; **Sarah Jameison** and **Andrew Liebmann**, private contractors; and **Sandra Bowman** and I from the Forest Service.

Four, including myself, were ex-journalists. In retrospect, this made a substantial difference. We were grass roots people. We tried to treat the public and media the way we would like to be treated.

We believed in "open and honest" government and we worked to make it a reality.

The project was highly controversial because we were bringing in multi-engine aircraft at 300 feet over a major urban area and spraying pesticides.

It had all the potential to erupt into something ugly, but it didn't, because of our communications approach and our initiatives to keep the public informed.



From left to right: **Andrew Liebmann**, **Sandra Bowman**, **Bruce D'Andrea**, **Sarah Jameison** (front centre), **Jon Bell**, **Nancy Argyle** - project communication team.

On the treatment of the media

We made some big points with the media.

We gave them anything they wanted. We did not shut any door in their face. We opened doors. We invited them in. We didn't just respond to their requests, we drew their attention to things that might be of interest to their readers or viewers.

Once, UTV phoned to say a TV crew was heading to the Abbotsford tanker base to look at the planes. I approved this request, but I also suggested that the crew take a look at the navigation systems in the planes, called the Global Positioning System, which uses satellites.

"I think your viewers would love to know how we are actually going to run these flight gridlines," I said.

I later got a call from them saying: "thanks for the story, that was just great, we loved it."

We made the media feel totally comfortable and we obtained any information they required instantly.

One day a *Vancouver Sun* reporter wanted information on who was getting the contracts for the ground spray and for the aerial component. Basically, the reporter wanted to know who was benefiting from these contracts.

While private industry was involved, British Columbians were benefiting from these contracts, so we gave them the information.

But the initial response was: why do they need to know that? My response was, it doesn't matter why. If the *Vancouver Sun* wants information, we give it.

We are accountable to taxpayers. This was a \$6-million, taxpayer-funded project. We were not going to hum and haw and pretend we could not find the document. We gave the information and that's all there was to it.

We used the open and honest approach. No closed doors. No locked drawers. We coached our team over and over again: "we must accommodate any kind of request."

We did just that and it paid off.

Towards the end of the project, the media complimented us on what we did and the way we treated them, and actually thanked us. That was unusual.

Public meetings: the information war

People often said to me "gee, there sure is a lot of controversy surrounding this project." But really there wasn't.

We had 600,000 people in the spray zone and many more affected because they worked in the area. But, out of this number, we had to deal with only a group of 100 protestors.

The first public meetings were held in January and February to get a feeling of public acceptance or rejection of the project.

Only 50 to 75 people attended these earlier meetings. People didn't show up because they were resigned to being disturbed and wanted to get it over with. The majority

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silently put up with it. We appreciated their cooperation and were able to undertake the project because of them.

But a core group of protestors and their representatives followed us everywhere.

I was not concerned that the protest group did not like what we were doing or that they disagreed with us, but I was concerned that they were spreading misinformation.

They accused us of spreading misinformation, but this was not the case. We were very careful about the information we delivered, because

as government employees, we were 100 per cent accountable. But they were not accountable to anyone. They were a citizen's group.

Unfortunately, conflict makes news, so what many people didn't see was the tremendous support we had from the unions, grain farmers, forest nursery owners, and the shipping, real estate, and tourism interests.

These people realized how the Asian gypsy moth could affect their livelihoods, but the media did not really take to reporting this side of the issue.

Before the spray we decided to have two more meetings.

People who came to these to get information or ask questions could not be heard because the protestors dominated the meetings, so we tried alternative ways of answering their questions.

We decided to position our staff outside or to the back of the room, so that when the public couldn't wait any longer to get to the microphone, we could approach them and ask them if we could answer their questions.

A model of communications

Our project is now being hailed as a model of communications.

Unfortunately, some still find it a bit scary. They think the approach we used would not apply to their project.

I don't think that is true. As far as communications are concerned, the most positive thing was how we handled the media and the public. It was not an experiment on people, as many of the protestors claimed. It was well thought out and well planned.

We are now making a case-study video of the project. It is aimed at issues management and is directed to government employees who have projects with some public impact. It is scheduled to be released at the end of the summer.

There are many people who could learn from the project. There were some unique things but, for the most part, we put in force some basic principles which can be applied to different projects.

We walked away from this experience with the feeling that we never did anything ethically wrong; there was never one bit of information withheld or not found. We were totally open and honest, but that is frightening for a lot of people, because it's the wave of the future.

Nils Sjoberg retires after 35 years

Nils Sjoberg retired in July after 35 years in the Forest Service. During this time he was instrumental in developing the province's silviculture program.

He joined the Forest Service's forest inventory division after graduating with a BSc in forestry from Washington State University in 1957.

In 1960, he was appointed as forester in the Prince Rupert district and in 1963 he joined the reforestation division in Victoria.

Sjoberg was instrumental in site surveys and development planning for nurseries that were established from 1963 to 1979.

As nursery development officer during the 1980s, his initiatives resulted in the mechanization of container nursery operations.

Recent projects under Sjoberg's direction have led to development of

proto-type equipment to mechanize container stock harvesting.

Apt retirement

After 19 years of service, **Kamill Apt** has left to pursue an interesting retirement.

Born in Hungary, Apt has a civil engineering background, and joined the Forest Service in the construction section of the engineering division in 1973.

In 1980, he joined the recreation branch as planning manager, putting to use a master's degree in recreation management from UBC. Since 1986, he has been the branch's senior landscape forester.

Apt plans to pursue his interests in particle physics and Chinese medicine. He will also travel to southwest Hungary, on a part-time basis, to grow grapes and make red wine.

Employment equity recommendations endorsed

Twenty-nine trainers delivered 130 employment equity information sessions to more than 2,200 Forest Service staff between February 26 and July 3.

The initiative provided employees with an understanding of employment equity.

Participants had the opportunity to identify barriers to employment and to give their views on how employment equity should be implemented in the Forest Service.

The employment equity steering

committee has submitted a summary report on these information sessions to the executive. It recommends actions based on the suggestions of employees.

The executive has endorsed all of the recommendations in principle and they will be implemented immediately.

Copies of the report were distributed to managers during the first week of August.

For further information on employment equity please call 387-3231.

Port Alberni district gets safety award

Deputy Minister **Philip Halkett** presented the Port Alberni forest district with the B.C. Safety Council Award of Honour on June 26, during the Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Week.

The award recognizes five-and-half years of accident-free work time by the 47 staff members in the district.

submitted by **Emma Neill**, community liaison officer, Port Alberni district

Wildlife tree MOU endorses committee, courses

Wildlife trees will now get the recognition they deserve, thanks to a memorandum of understanding signed by the Workers' Compensation Board, the Forest Service, and the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks.

These dead or decaying trees, often termed 'snags,' teem with bird and animal life but can be potentially hazardous to forestry workers.

The memorandum recognizes the importance of maintaining wildlife trees as habitat and endorses both the wildlife tree committee and wildlife-danger tree assessors course.

Wildlife trees are used by approximately 90 species or 16 per cent of the province's native birds, mammals, and amphibians for nesting,

food, and shelter.

Woodpeckers usually create the first holes. After they leave, these holes are often used by owls, bats, and pine marten.

As the trees continue to rot, insects take them over. This, in turn, attracts more insect-eating birds, which keep the potential insect pests under control.

But rotting wildlife trees can also be dangerous to forestry workers. They can be easily toppled if brushed by a cable or piece of equipment. Even ground vibrations can cause some of them to fall.

The wildlife tree committee — which includes the three major signatories of the memorandum, plus representatives of the forest industry and Canadian Wildlife Service — has faced the question of wildlife habitat preservation versus worker safety for several years.

It has worked to increase awareness of this wildlife habitat and to encourage the planned, safe retention of these trees in harvesting and silviculture operations.

The committee has developed a rating system, based on the hazard posed by individual snags.

The snag-assessment procedures for silviculture projects now provide the basis for a wildlife-danger tree assessors course (see sidebar).

Wildlife-danger tree assessors courses slated for fall/winter

When is a valuable 'wildlife tree' a dangerous 'snag'?

And how do you tell the difference?

These and other questions will be answered during the wildlife-danger tree assessors courses and general information sessions to be held throughout the province this fall and winter.

The general information sessions will inform professional and technical staff, working in forest resource management, about the wildlife value of snags and the dangers these trees pose to forestry workers. There will be a review and a discussion of the snag-assessment process.

The assessors course includes discussion of biological and safety issues as well as intensive training in snag-assessment procedures. Testing to measure individual competence in the assessment procedures will occur on the last day of the course.

Individuals who successfully complete the course will be qualified to complete snag assessments. It is expected that selected silviculture technicians in each forest district will become qualified assessors, as well as WCB inspectors, timber company staff, consultants, and contractors.

The B.C. Forestry Continuing Studies Network will be organizing these activities for the silviculture branch. Brochures defining dates, locations, and registration fees will be available soon.

*submitted by Cindy Pearce,
director, B.C. Forestry
Continuing Studies Network*



Cuthbert and Still reflect on Rio

Chief forester **John Cuthbert**, **Gerry Still**, manager, integrated resource management research, research branch, **Jim Hilton**, silviculture audits forester, Cariboo forest region, and **Carlos Martins**, sampling technician, inventory branch returned from the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro with fresh insights on global environmental issues.

Cuthbert was part of the Canadian delegation to the UN conference on environment and development held during the first two weeks of June in Brazil. He served as advisor to provincial Environment Minister **John Cashore**.

"We went down to learn what was going on and share what was happening in B.C.," **Cuthbert** said. "It is now a process of following up and continuing what was started in Rio."

Cuthbert was impressed by the wide recognition of environmental issues throughout the world but added that many cultural and economic issues had to be resolved before any real progress at the global level is made.

"It's going to be a long, involved process and there has to be some action taken on the population and poverty issues. But I'm amazed at how much was achieved, given the diversity of the players."

"Canada took a very prominent role and was seen by many nations to be a positive contributor to the process. We signed the biodiversity and atmospheric conventions and we negotiated for stronger guiding principles on forestry."

Gerry Still attended Global Forum '92, a parallel event where non-governmental organizations (NGOs) developed their own treaties as blueprints for action.

There was a cultural and spiritual ambience to the forum, with a broad representation of humanitarian, women's and indigenous peoples groups, and environmental groups of all philosophical persuasions, **Still** said.



*Members of Canadian delegation to Rio conference visit Global Forum '92. From left to right: **Jamie Alley**, Ministry of Environment, two representatives of Nisga'a Nation, Environment Minister **John Cashore**, and Chief forester **John Cuthbert**.*

"A lot of NGOs were concerned the Earth Summit negotiations would not be especially meaningful because of the politics and the number of players involved. They felt meaningful wording in the various agreements had been watered down to the point where it was meaningless. So they felt it was appropriate to develop their own treaties," he said.

Still has been interested in the NGO movement for some time. He feels it will be necessary for the Forest Service to work more closely with groups interested in working within the existing system to create change.

There was some disappointment among the Canadian delegation on the global convention on forestry signed at the conference.

"Canada wanted a tougher forestry convention," **Cuthbert** said.

"We were negotiating for stronger guiding principles. Those that were agreed to were not binding. But they

do incorporate some of the things we wanted — that forests be managed for all values and this management be based on public input and sound ecological principles.

"However, we want and need some strong international bench-marks concerning environmentally sustainable forestry practices on which we can be judged. We didn't get those, but what we did get is a good stepping stone."

The next step is to examine the forestry convention in more detail and compare its standards to current forestry practices. **Cuthbert** sees linkages eventually being made from the forestry convention's global principles right down to local resource-use plans in the province.

The Forest Service will work with the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, which is developing an implementation strategy to evaluate the agreements signed in Rio.

Forestry Continuing Studies Network gets new delivery centres, regional coordinator

The B.C. Forestry Continuing Studies Network is an independent, non-profit organization associated with educational institutions with forestry programs. It is committed to bringing British Columbians quality adult education in sustainable forest resource management.

In the past few months the FCS network has established new delivery centres and has organized several new activities.

The delivery centre at Cariboo College in Kamloops has **Tom Rankin** as coordinator. Rankin is responsible for the central interior area, which includes the Cariboo and Kamloops forest regions.

April Anderson continues to provide services from Selkirk College in Castlegar for the southern interior area, which includes the Nelson forest region.

A number of activities have been organized at locations in these regions, including the Southern Interior Silviculture Committee summer workshop (see below for details), an Engelmann spruce-subalpine fir zone management field trip, and a demonstration of silviculture practices and a root rot management field trip.

Rankin and Anderson are eager to hear your suggestions for forestry education activities that could be organized in your area. Call Rankin at 371-5540 and Anderson at 365-7292.

The FCS Network Coastal Advisory Board has selected Malaspina College as the location for its coastal delivery centre. The coastal coordinator position is available. Interested individuals should contact **Doug Corrin** at 753-3245.

In the interim, pre-harvest silvicultural prescription courses, and a



rehabilitation options demonstration are being organized for the coastal area with the Vancouver region's silviculture and forest sciences sections.

Laura Poulk, coordinator at University of Northern B.C. continues to expand activities in the northern area. Pre-harvest silvicultural prescription workshops have been organized throughout the Prince George forest region and forest pathology field trips have been held in Houston, Prince George, and Williams Lake. Poulk can be reached at 565-5980.

The provincial office at the Faculty of Forestry at UBC is assisting Forest Service branches to organize the following new activities during the fall and winter:

- a workshop on successful area-based planting contracts;
- a wildlife-danger tree assessor's course and a short seminar for general interest;
- a seminar introducing silvicultural systems;
- road engineering courses; and,
- photo interpretation certification courses.

Training initiatives are also in the planning stages for the coastal fish-forestry guidelines, timber supply planning, and landscape management.

The second calendar, to be released in early September, will include a catalogue describing available activities and a small wall calendar identifying scheduled sessions.

Please contact your local delivery centre or the provincial office for more information on the FCS network, or the activities that have been organized.

*submitted by **Cindy Pearce**, director,
B.C. Forestry Continuing Studies
Network*

Silviculture Committee summer field tour

In recent years, silviculture programs in British Columbia have concentrated on establishing plantations that meet free-growing standards.

New FRDA II and Forest Service initiatives emphasize intensive forest management.

The issues related to intensive forest management are explored in this Southern Interior Silviculture Committee workshop, which takes place in Kamloops, August 25-27.

For more information contact **April Anderson**, Selkirk College, 365-7292.

Training registration fees reflect the true value of training

High-quality training requires a commitment of time and financial resources.

In the past, forestry training was usually organized by Forest Service specialists or volunteer groups and was funded by a program, somewhere in the system, so that participants' fees were little or nothing at all.

This was feasible when training demands were light and program funding was available. In the 1990s, however, this model no longer meets the increased demands for certain levels of forestry training.

The B.C. Forestry Continuing Studies Network, established with seed money from the Forest Service and Forestry Canada, assists a broad range of groups to organize and deliver high-quality, adult, forestry education.

It provides a 'one-stop shopping' for participants of forestry education activities.

Experienced staff schedule activities, organize facilities and equipment, handle registration, manage the finances, and provide evaluations of activities. This allows technical specialists to focus on issues that require their expertise rather than on the details of organizing activities.

As an independent, non-profit organization, the FCS network charges registration fees that reflect the actual costs of organizing and delivering activities. The

objective is to encourage participation in forestry education, and not to exclude participants by charging unreasonable registration fees.

Sponsorship funding for most activities is being sought to maintain these fees at reasonable levels.

Charging registration fees for forestry education activities has a number of impacts:

- the training is seen as valuable and more credible; when participants pay even a small fee they are more responsible about registering for activities and notifying organizers of cancellations — this promotes effective planning.
- the costs are borne directly by the level of an organization that benefits from the training; this means that districts may be required to pay for staff training when it was previously funded by regions or branches, and individuals outside the Forest Service (timber company employees, consultants, and contractors) will pay for their own training.

If you have any questions about the services the FCS network provides please contact:

April Anderson, southern interior, 365-7292;

Laura Poulk, northern interior, 565-5980;

Tom Rankin, central interior, 371-5540; or,

Cindy Pearce, director, 822-9278.

New training and development policies distributed

The human resources branch recently distributed two new policies — one for employee training and one for employee development.

The policies are the result of an extensive review conducted by the branch and the training and development steering committee. They are intended as guidelines for managers.

Why two policies?

The two separate policies were developed because of differences between training and development and differing subsidy arrangements for each of them.

- Training relates directly to an employee's current job duties, whereas
- development enhances an employee's skills and abilities to meet future ministry requirements, and to further individual career plans.

The Forest Service is committed to helping employees achieve their career goals and offers financial support to those wishing to pursue developmental opportunities.

For example, when developmental studies take place outside normal working hours, the Forest Service will

assume 100 per cent of the cost for tuition, exam fees, and books.

The human resources development section has distributed copies of the new policies to all branch directors, regional managers, and district managers. Copies have also been sent to human resource officers at headquarters and in the regions.

Employees are encouraged to review these policies with their supervisors when discussing training needs or development opportunities.

*submitted by Flo Connolly,
human resource development officer,
human resources branch*

ROOTS



The recently re-opened Aleza Lake Research Forest as it appeared in 1928. Tents were erected for a ranger's meeting (B.C. Archives photo H-5396).

Summit '92 next month – mega-event on forestry

Several trade exhibitions, conferences, and meetings will take place in September under the umbrella of 'Summit 92: Rising to the Challenge: The Forest Industries Look to the Future.'

The largest exhibition, **Demo '92**, will occur in Kelowna September 17-20.

Billed as 'North America's premiere showcase' for woodlands equipment, it is an event which, like the Olympics, is held every four years. Demo '88 in Quebec attracted more than 16,000 visitors.

Demo '92 will be on a 300-hectare site about 35 kilometres from Kelowna.

Visitors will see one of the largest, active demonstrations of forestry management and wood harvesting technology, with more than 150 exhibitors and \$100 million of equipment.

The exhibitors include the Forest Service, Forestry Canada, Forest Engineering Research Institute of Canada, Workers' Compensation Board, and most of the major forest industry equipment manufacturers.

There will be demonstrations of pre-commercial and commercial thinnings,

selective and final harvesting, full-tree processing and chipping, site preparation and planting, road construction, material handling, and ground and cable yarding systems.

Summit '92 events taking place in Vancouver include:

- **September 20-24:** Annual meeting of the Canadian Institute of Forestry. The theme is 'Forestry: The Cornerstone of Canadian Society.'
- **September 22-24:** Forest Sector Conference, with 400-600 delegates from Council of Forest Industries, Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, Forintek Canada Corporation, Forestry Canada, Forest Service and B.C. Trade. The theme is 'Rising to the Challenge: The Forest Industries Look to the Future.'
- **September 23-25:** Wood Expo '92/ EXFOR West. It includes an exhibition of equipment for the solid-wood and pulp-and-paper industries and the B.C. Wood Specialties Group exhibition of value-added, solid-wood products.

Appointments

Ron Hinshaw joined the inventory branch on June 17 as manager, forest inventory training. He served as commanding officer of *HMCS Quadra*, a national cadet-training establishment, and was responsible for the training more than 1,500 cadets every year and the management of 350 instructors and support staff.

Angus Robertson started as manager, aboriginal affairs section, corporate policy and planning branch, in early July. Robertson has many years experience in resource management, aboriginal issues, and land claims in both the Yukon and N.W.T. Most recently, he was the director, renewable resources and environment, northern affairs program, Yellowknife.

Gary Miltenberger, valuation officer, Prince Rupert forest region, has accepted a two-year, executive interchange developmental secondment to the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs in the Yukon as regional manager, forest resources program. Based in Whitehorse, Miltenberger will be responsible for forest and fire management activities in the territory.

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Mailing Address: 1450 Government Street, Victoria, B.C. V8W 3E7

Phone: 387-5255 FAX: 387-8485

Submissions are encouraged. Please send your comments suggestions and contributions to **Susan Bannerman**, at Public Affairs Branch.

Editor: **Ben J. Pires**

