



Squamish opens new district office

Amid a torrential downpour, Squamish forest district's new office officially opened its doors October 23.

With Deputy Minister **Philip Halkett** on hand to dedicate the new building, the opening ceremonies were held in tents, providing protection from the rain for guests and dignitaries.

Despite the wet weather, the ceremonies were enjoyed by members of the public, industry representatives, and elected officials as well as staff and spouses. The grand opening included a log-sawing competition that substituted for the traditional ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Instead of cutting ribbons, they sawed logs to open Squamish's new district office. David Mitchell, MLA for Howe Sound (centre) can't quite get the sawteeth to grab, even with district manager Paul Kuster's (far right) coaching. In full swing on the second saw is Deputy Minister Philip Halkett, with Squamish mayor Egon Tobus (out of picture) at the other end.

"Yes, that's the way to do it!"



Financial services branch director Bob Battles tried his hand at one of society's 10 most stressful jobs on October 7, under the watchful eye of Leanne Ayres, financial systems secretary. See page two for more photos.

Four groupings of trees, representing the district's four ecological zones, were ceremonially planted in the facility's arboretum.

Other activities included video displays, silviculture and harvesting practices displays, cake cutting, and official speeches. As well, Smokey Bear was nearby to delight both younger and older visitors.

Forest Service staff provided guided tours of the new building, served refreshments and handed out balloons, pencils and posters to the children. There was a steady stream of visitors to the new facility.

"In all, we had nearly 200 visitors to the grand opening," Squamish District Manager **Paul Kuster** said. "It was a good turnout and quite a success."

The new \$2.1 million facility provides the 60 employees of the Squamish district with a modern 1 700-square-metre building to help meet the challenges of administering and protecting the forest, range and recreation resources of the area.

*submitted by Nancy Argyle, public information officer,
Vancouver forest region*

Please distribute to all employees at their work stations

Receptionists get the recognition they deserve



"Help! What do I do now?" exclaims forestry division's regional staff manager **Jim Snetsinger** as operations division's **John Mallett** hands him the executive receptionist's phone. Enjoying the confusion are (from left to right): **Maureen Yelovatz**, executive secretary, management services division; **Lyla Smith**, senior executive secretary, deputy minister's office; **Marlene Docherty**, director's secretary, public affairs branch; **Penny Holt**, administrative officer, forestry division; **Caroline Slydell**, executive secretary, operations division; **Diane Talbot**, acting operations assistant, operations division; and, **Carola Bouchard**, receptionist; deputy minister's office.

On October 7 managers, and even a director or two, took time out from their regular schedules to experience one of society's most stressful jobs—receptionist.

Receptionist Recognition Day was organized by the Women's Advisory Committee to draw attention to the important contribution receptionists make to the smooth operation of the Forest Service.

Receptionists work on the frontlines of our organization, taking the brunt of our clients' frustrations, keeping track of managers' schedules and a million other details, while all the time presenting a picture of calm efficiency.

By spending some time at the front desk, participating managers and directors became very aware of just how difficult the job of the receptionist can be, with often hilarious results!



*Protection's director **Jim Dunlop's** stint as branch receptionist started out smoothly enough but . . .*



*. . . as the day progressed Jim found out how many hands (and ears) a receptionist needs. Pouring on the work are **Linda Cochrane**, receptionist, and fire management's equipment development technician, **Kerry Brewer**.*

News in brief

Recent news releases

- Minister returns from European forestry mission – #105
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- Forest Service investigates an alleged trespass by MacMillan Bloedel Ltd., near Tofino Creek on Clayoquot Sound – #109
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Halkett on the European forestry mission

In early October, Forests Minister Art Charbonneau and Deputy Minister Philip Halkett went on a three-country European mission. The purpose of their trip was to promote trade in forest products and explain key government initiatives in forestry policy and practice.

They were accompanied on the week-long visit by Forest Service and industry representatives, including Wes Cheston, assistant deputy minister, operations; Ross Tozer, regional manager, Nelson forest region; Bill St. John, vice president, lumber marketing, MacMillan Bloedel Ltd.; Christer Arnesen, group vice president, pulp and paper, Canfor Corporation; Don McMullan, chief forester, Fletcher Challenge Canada; and, Bob Sitter, president and chief operating officer, International Forest Products.

The group encountered a disturbing level of misinformation in Europe about forestry practices.

The following are excerpts from a recent interview with Philip Halkett.

Where did you go in Europe and who did you have discussions with?

We went to the United Kingdom, Belgium, and Germany, as these countries are significant purchasers of Canadian solid wood and pulp and paper.

In the U.K. we met with representatives of importing companies and the Pulp and Paper Association; in Brussels with owners and representatives of importing companies, as well as European Community officials; and in Germany with importers, a large newspaper and magazine publisher, and Greenpeace.

What issues were discussed?

We wanted to provide information on a number of key government initiatives that will change forest practices in British Columbia—the Commission on Resources and the Environment, with its innovative shared decision-making model for land-use planning; and the Protected Areas strategy,

which deals with preserving old-growth forests and areas for parks, wilderness, ecological reserves, and wildlife management. The timber supply review and reductions in allowable annual cuts were also discussed as were other issues such as aboriginal land claims, fish/forest guidelines, and the maintenance of biodiversity.

How was this message received?

Our chief impression during the trip was that the debate in the U.K. and Germany, in particular, was not the sophisticated one that we were prepared to enter into. The debate that occurs in Canada concerns the recognition of making changes to forest practices, while the issue in northern Europe is much more basic.

Many people there don't know the full story. They don't know what is going on over here, they have limited access to information, and the information they do have is biased.

For instance, in the U.K. there seems to be the impression, at least among consumers, that using wood is bad. We

were told of a situation where people were handing out pamphlets at retail stores that said "Save a Tree—Use PVC," which is a plastic material.

So that debate isn't over biodiversity or protected areas, but seems to concern whether people should use wood; some people are arguing that plastic is more environmentally friendly.

The debate in Germany is a little different but just as simplistic. Some segments of the public perceive that Canada is covered with thousand-year-old trees, which are cut down to make tissue paper for Germans.

There seems to be a large emphasis on what other countries should be doing without applying the same standards to their own country.

While we're concerned with protecting 12 per cent of our representative ecosystems, we were told Germany has only one per cent of its forested land protected.

Have any conclusions been reached, and if so, what happens next?

Attention to trade is very important. The conclusion we drew was that if Canada is going to continue selling wood products to Europe there must be more information aimed at the consumer level. The issues have to be dealt with in their terms, not ours.

Our relative prosperity in this province is a function of our trade in the world economy. Anything that negatively affects our trading situation or our ability to trade will eventually affect our ability to provide the level of social services we are used to.

The trip was successful, however, because I think the government recognizes that co-ordinated action with the federal government must be taken to get a realistic message out to northern Europe.

We are discussing the initiatives now. Proposals have been made to the federal government and we are actively working on them.

No final decisions have been made yet but we are looking at exchanges of diplomats, forestry experts, and information.



No, Philip Halkett isn't singing in the rain! The dark rain clouds that followed the deputy minister and the forestry mission around Europe showed up again for the opening of Squamish's new district office.

FS involvement with tropical forestry institute offers "interesting opportunity"

Have you ever felt alarmed but helpless when confronted with the global tropical forest crisis? Or wondered what you could do to save even a small part of this rapidly disappearing resource? Well, the ability to do something about these faraway concerns just came a little closer to home.

The Forest Service is now the Canadian executing agency of the ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) Institute of Forest Management (AIFM) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The AIFM was established in 1986 with assistance from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

"The ASEAN Institute of Forest Management project presents an interesting opportunity for the Forest Service," says Inventory Branch Director **Dave Gilbert**, who chairs the steering committee that oversees the project's budget and operation plans.

"It provides us with an opportunity to put the ecological problems of tropical ecosystems into our own context. From this

venture we will learn more about rural forestry situations, as well as improve our own forest management. And in the process, hopefully we will be helping the ASEAN nations."

The six southeast Asian countries of the association—Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, Thailand and Indonesia—are the world's largest producers of timber from tropical rainforests. In most ASEAN member countries, forests play an important role in the rural economy and significantly influence socio-economic development, community welfare, and people's quality of life.

A centre for excellence

The institute idea sprang to life with the growing realization that indigenous tropical rainforests were being rapidly depleted and environmental degradation in these areas was increasing.

So the intention of the first five-year phase of the AIFM project was to establish and develop a centre of excellence in

tropical rainforest management, particularly in the areas of timber inventory and monitoring, growth and yield, forest modelling, and management information systems.

CIDA believed that the use of sustainable yield forest management methods would result in a forest that provided for the multiple needs of industry and local people, and provide a source of steady employment that would not be harmful to their environment.

The start of FS involvement

CIDA examined numerous sources of expertise to direct the management and development activities of the second phase of the AIFM project—activities that would see the institute become self-sufficient, which is a major goal of any CIDA operation.

The development agency became interested in the B.C. Forest Service when it participated in a planning delegation in early 1990. "Through this mission, CIDA recognized that we led in many of the disciplinary areas in which the institute was trying to excel," explains inventory branch's **Raoul Wiart**.

Wiart, manager, technical audit and planning, acts as Chief Forester **John Cuthbert's** designate to manage and supervise the project in Victoria.

"It was felt we had a strong complement of experienced staff and that the Forest Service management principles and technical practices were directly transferable to the ASEAN region," says **Kathi Mitchell** of the inventory branch, who is the AIFM's Canadian administrator for the duration of the project.

CIDA's goal for the second five-year phase of the project is to continue AIFM's development by using the Forest Service's many technical strengths, particularly in the areas of management information systems, geographic information systems (GIS) and remote sensing, inventory and silvicultural systems technology, and protection.

The fundamental objective is to create an institution that will play a leading role to



The Forest Service's inception mission team at the Lampang pilot project site in northern Thailand. This watershed area, covering 1 600 square kilometres, serves a purpose similar to our demonstration forests. From left to right: **Pralong Dumrongtha**, Thailand forestry department; **Kasinathan Kengaiiah**, AIFM forester from Kuala Lumpur; **Colene Wood**, training and extension services manager, silviculture branch; **Al Becker**, inventory information systems acting manager, inventory branch; **Del Meidinger**, research ecologist, research branch; **Jirajet Urasayanam**, forest management section secretary, Thailand forestry department; and **Hashim bin Saad**, director of the ASEAN Institute of Forest Management.

assist ASEAN countries to improve their forest management practices. This will be achieved by adapting existing practices and developing new ones. The development of fully competent and confident AIFM and ASEAN staff will be emphasized to upgrade the skills of foresters and forestry-related professionals and technicians so they can apply these methods.

Regional participation will be increased at a number of pilot sites in the ASEAN member countries so they can pursue multiple resource management at the district level. As well, the development of information exchange linkages to the forestry programs of ASEAN countries and world bodies will be assisted by the development of a world-class technical library, capable of regional, and possibly international, library integration.

Peter Ackhurst, former director of the silviculture branch, moved to Kuala Lumpur with his family in July as Canadian project manager, to supervise all Forest Service activities in the ASEAN countries.

"This is a good project. BCFS is truly contributing to the improvement of forest management techniques in southeast Asia. We are assisting the ASEAN Institute of Forest Management to work with, and train, ASEAN foresters to improve the sustainable development of the southeast Asian forests," says Ackhurst.

Inception mission lays groundwork

A team of three Forest Service employees recently completed the project's inception mission, which laid the groundwork for all future activities in the ASEAN countries.

The group met with all the staff at the institute in Kuala Lumpur and at the various pilot sites, and has prepared implementation, operations and training plans for the five-year duration of the project.

Al Becker, acting manager, inventory information systems, inventory branch, was the inception mission's GIS and remote sensing specialist.

"Monitoring is a big issue. There has been quite a loss of forest in the ASEAN area in the last several decades, so they want better ways to inventory the forests, with the view to maintaining them. That is part of the reason for developing the institute's satellite image analysis and GIS capabilities—to see what's currently



Former Silviculture Branch Director Peter Ackhurst planting a tree at the Philippine pilot site on the island of Mindanao. Ackhurst is the Canadian project manager for the AIFM.

happening and then do comparisons with datasets from a few years ago to estimate losses or gains," says Becker.

"My job was to look at the requirements for computers and equipment. Most of the people I met with were interested in UNIX work-stations as they are doing fairly high-end image analysis and GIS integration. They're quite up on the latest techniques. The major lack is training and the funding to buy equipment."

Del Meidinger, research ecologist, research branch, was the mission's forest interpretation specialist.

"I examined the environmental components of the project," said Meidinger. "The institute is interested in integrated forest management, so we must determine what the various resource values are and how best to inventory them and tie them together into a management model."

Colene Wood, manager, training and extension services, silviculture branch, went as the training and women in development specialist. Her role was to determine what infrastructure is in place to support ASEAN staff training and extension activities.

Staff training a large component

"A large component of this project is training of the institute staff and other ASEAN personnel," says administrator Mitchell. "CIDA is providing funding for up to 27 person years of training and

scholarship in Canada over the five years of the project."

Students from each of the ASEAN member countries will be brought to Canada for University and technical training in the forest management sciences: nine will enroll in master of science programs, another nine will receive technical training, there will be four work/study positions, and numerous on-the-job training programs.

"Part of my job will be looking after the people who come to Canada for training—getting them housed and enrolled, and generally easing them through the sometimes difficult cultural transition period by helping them with all the taken-for-granted details of life in Canada like banking and transportation systems," says Mitchell.

Over the next five years, there will also be about 18 secondment opportunities coming up for Forest Service specialists to go to southeast Asia to train institute staff. These jobs will range anywhere from six months to three years in length.

Benefits from ground-breaking project

The ASEAN Institute of Forest Management project represents a remarkable venture for the Forest Service that will provide benefits on several fronts—both at home and abroad.

The province will have access to Pacific Rim forestry, trading and environmental networks, and be able to promote B.C. technology abroad.

It will also give Forest Service staff international work experience, and the important opportunity to actually do something for tropical rainforests and their associated management problems.

"This is something we can really be proud of," says Wiart. "We can hold our heads up high when dealing with the world market—we have the experts and the leading-edge technology and can make a positive and meaningful contribution to the development of third world countries."

Information about secondment opportunities will be available on the Forest Service's bulletin board BBAIFM.

Further information can be obtained from **Kathi Mitchell**, AIFM administrator, 356-0765; or **Raoul Wiart**, manager, technical audit and planning, inventory branch, 387-5436.

What's new in suggestion awards?

Nine Forest Service employees hit \$3,800 paydirt with TREES!

Nine employees hit paydirt this month through "The Recognition of Employees Efforts and Suggestions (TREES) program.

Their bright ideas have earned them \$3,800 and will help streamline Forest Service procedures and operations.

Paul Gevatkoff, operations manager, Dawson Creek forest district, received \$1,500 for developing a fair rate of compensation for areas disturbed during seismic or drilling explorations. His formula enables the recovery of stumpage payments for the trees removed by exploration companies.

Evaluators of Gevatkoff's suggestion included Prince George's regional manager, **Ken Collingwood**, and valuation appraisal coordinator, **Les Hawkins**, valuation branch's previous director, **Hartley Lewis**, and current director, **Jack Biickert**.

Jim Life, publication coordinator for the inventory branch's technical audit and planning section, made a suggestion worth \$500.

Life negotiated a group "Windows" training package with a Victoria-based training agency for branch staff. This resulted in substantial savings in course costs and staff time. His suggestion was evaluated by former inventory branch staffer **Jack McLellan** and branch director **Dave Gilbert**.

Karen Geertsma, silviculture office manager for the Prince Rupert forest region made changes to the planting stock shipping invoice (FS 1158) to document truck waiting time. Her suggestion, worth \$300, has substantially improved procedures for tracking and justifying transport charges for idle time.

SuchaMore, audit project manager, audit services branch, and silvi-culture's manager of nursery and seed extension services, **Drew Brazier** evaluated Geertsma's idea.

Suggestions leading to the development of a protection systems manual netted six employees \$250 each.

Three of the award winners are from protection branch: **Mike Winder**, supervisor of systems operations, and **John Sloan**, operations technician, both of the forest management analysis and development section, and **Jennifer Bingham**, word processor, of the finance and administration section.

Other contributors to the manual idea were **Cheryl Edwards**, senior business analyst with the tenure and silvi-culture systems section, information systems branch; **Val Fletcher**, forest health research forester, silviculture branch; and **Claudia Moore**.

The suggestion for the manual, which details fire control procedures for the province, was evaluated by protection's **Peter Fuglem**, manager, forest management analysis and development; and branch director, **Jim Dunlop**.

TREES program update

As of August 30, our employee suggestion program had received 46 suggestions and presented five awards, totalling \$23,760. These bright ideas have saved the Forest Service \$1,053,081!

The TREES application/evaluation form (FS 487) was recently revised to reflect a change in the maximum award value from \$100 to \$500 (the government-wide suggestion award program will supplement this maximum up to a total award of \$25,000 when appropriate).

This form, along with a brochure, will be available from your office contact for the TREES program by the end of November.

"This increase in maximum award size, plus changes in the way that suggestions are processed, will reduce delays in making award payments," says **Marilyn Seifert**, TREES program co-ordinator.

Seifert gets a lot of questions concerning suggestions and a person's job description, particularly from those who must evaluate suggestions. "Job descriptions are used by the program's committee to determine if a

person qualifies for an award," explains Seifert.

"Awards are given for approved suggestions, unless the committee determines that the idea is part of a suggester's regular job responsibilities."

Seifert adds that a large debt is owed to the people who evaluate suggestions. "They do a lot of work and are responsible for much of the success of the TREES program."

Further information can be obtained from your office contact or from **Marilyn Seifert** (387-3212), OV (MSEIFERT).

Coming Event

Integrated Forest Vegetation Management: Options and Applications

February 9-10, 1993

This two-day workshop, sponsored by the Forest Service and B.C. Environment, Lands and Parks, provides current information on treatment options for forest vegetation management. The application of integrated pest management concepts to forest vegetation management will also be discussed.

The workshop takes place at the Delta Pacific Conference Centre in Richmond and is intended for researchers and field practitioners involved in vegetation management projects. A poster session will be held the evening of February 8.

For further information contact:

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A new approach to forest fires

Fighting fires has taken an innovative new direction in the Vancouver forest region with the debut of its Interface Response Teams in Port Alberni and Duncan.

Coming on-line in July, the crews provide a much-needed service by combatting fires in the wildland / urban interface area that many rural fire departments are hard pressed to deal with.

Typically, rural fire departments don't have the resources or expertise to battle interface brush fires because of high equipment costs. A mutual aid agreement between various fire departments and the Forest Service is one way to deal with the extra-ordinary challenges and demands of an interface fire.

"The potential for interface fires has increased over the years, as many people opt to build their houses on the edge of forest land, often leaving the existing trees in place," says **Brent Anderson**, acting fire prevention coordinator, Vancouver forest region. "Unfortunately, this popular 'rural look' can sometimes lead to a damaging interface fire situation."

The truck units, which are used specifically for structure defense, include the latest technology for dispensing compressed air foam. They are crewed by one full-time and two seasonal employees, who receive both Forest Service and fire department training.

Duncan's response unit includes team leader **Rob Templeman** and crew members **Joe Thorne** and **John Baan**. Port Alberni's team members include acting team leader **Richard Heard**, **William Lambrechts**, and **Duncan Boyd**.

These teams have already proven themselves on a number



Duncan forest district's Interface Response Team with their hi-tech fire truck. From left to right: Joe Thorne, Rob Templeman and John Baan.

of interface fires. In addition to responding in a professional manner, the crews are also projecting a positive image for the Forest Service by helping to support various local fire departments and by promoting fire-safe communities.

The interface response team concept was developed collectively by Duncan and Port Alberni's protection officers **Pat Hayes** and **Dan Powell**, who worked closely with **Gary Munro**, protection officer for the Vancouver region, and **Steve Westby**, initial attack crew superintendent, from protection branch in Victoria.

submitted by Nancy Argyle, public information officer, Vancouver forest region

New resource centre offers 'one-stop shopping'

You have a site preparation presentation to do next week and you know it could take hours of telephoning just to track down all the information you need. Where do you start?

Try the new Silviculture Branch Resource Centre. It could make your job a lot easier.

The centre has a publication list of about 100 items and provides both the Forest Service and the interested public with 'one-stop shopping' for an impressive array of silvi-culture resource materials including brochures, pamphlets, reports, videos, and displays.

"We had a 'bits-and-pieces' approach before," explains silviculture extension officer **Meggin Messenger**. "We had boxes and boxes of publications and didn't really know what or how much we had."

Now everything is organized under one roof and the job of filling requests for information has been co-ordinated and streamlined.

The resource centre works in conjunction with the Forest Service library, and the resource centres of other branches, including technical and administration services, but it does not distribute the information they already handle.

Besides housing publications, the centre also has 'grow your own tree' kits, posters, and materials for school programs.

"We want to be a resource for every type of extension service," says Messenger. We supply white boards and presentation support aids and we're starting to circulate training materials, such as pruning kits, as well."

The centre officially opened its doors in September and now that the word is out, Messenger keeps getting 'mystery' boxes.

"Publications that were previously hidden away are ending up on our doorstep," says Messenger.

To find out more about ordering publications phone **Tania Chouinard** at 387-8907. For more information about the silvi-culture branch resource centre call **Meggin Messenger**, 387-5766.

ROOTS



*Martin Allerdale Grainger (right) on an inspection trip of the Hazelton forest district office in May 1914. Grainger was a legendary "character." Schooled as a mathematician, he was a logger and wrote about his experiences in a semi-autobiographical novel *Woodsmen of the West*. In 1909, by what appeared to be a stroke of luck, he became the secretary for the Fulton Commission of Inquiry on Timber and Forestry. H.R. MacMillan, the province's first chief forester, said that Grainger was wholly responsible for the commission's report, which led to the passage of the Forest Act in 1912 and the establishment of the forest branch. He was the branch's first chief of records and then succeeded Macmillan as chief forester in 1915. Grainger was known for his "flaming zeal." One of his associates said of him, "he was the man who instilled more esprit de corps into the forest service than anyone I ever knew." (B.C. Archives photo FS836)*

Deputy chief forester appointed

Bronwen Beedle assumes the position of deputy chief forester on December 7.

Beedle started with the Forest Service in 1989 as district manager of the Fort Nelson forest district. Before that she was a private sector forester for eight years and also worked for the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing for five

years as a district land manager in Cranbrook, and a land manager in Courtenay.

She received a bachelor of science in forestry from the University of British Columbia in 1974 and a masters of business administration from Queen's University in 1988.

Robson Valley's Hoddinott retires after 25 years

Robin Hoddinott was honoured with a retirement dinner and social evening on October 17 at McBride's Elks Hall.

Hoddinott, operations manager, Robson Valley forest district, had been with the Forest Service for 25 years.

Robin began his career in 1967, at Port McNeill as assistant ranger and transferred to Harrison Lake in 1971. Promoted to

ranger in 1973, Robin put his flying experience to work and assisted with bird-dog training. He later became Vancouver region's air co-ordinator.

Hoddinott came to McBride as ranger in 1977 and began his present position in 1980.

The retiree will remain in McBride for the next year, then move "south"—to Salmon Arm!

Appointments

Ray Addison has been appointed as director of the integrated resources branch. He was previously appointed in an "acting" capacity.

Addison, a biologist, has been with the Forest Service since 1974 and has been involved with forest policy and strategic planning activities. In 1987, he became manager of the resource planning program with integrated resources branch and later was manager of the branch's range program.

Greg Hemphill will be the new district manager for the Sunshine Coast forest district, Vancouver forest region, starting in the new year. The 20-year veteran with the Forest Service is a forest technician and was previously a protection resource officer for the Chilliwack and Sechelt forest districts. Hemphill is currently operations manager for the Chilliwack forest district.

Leslie Laird has joined the Deputy Minister's staff as manager of the correspondence services section. Laird was formerly with the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, where she was responsible for managing all ministerial and executive correspondence for the parks branch. Her background and experience will be valuable to the successful implementation of the Ministerial Referral Letter Project team's recommendations.

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