Forest Service

Vol. 3, No. 3 A newsletter for Ministry of Forests' employees March 1993

Miller, Dyer cut ribbon at new district office in Queen Charlottes

A driving cold rain and winds of up to 80 kilometres per hour greeted Forests Minister **Dan Miller** for the official opening of the Queen Charlotte forest district's new office February 26.

Despite the stormy skies people from the local communities and forest industry gathered under the office's front entrance canopy for the official dedication. To commemorate the occasion, Miller unveiled a plaque that has been embedded into one of two 65-centimetre diameter western redcedar columns supporting the front entrance canopy.

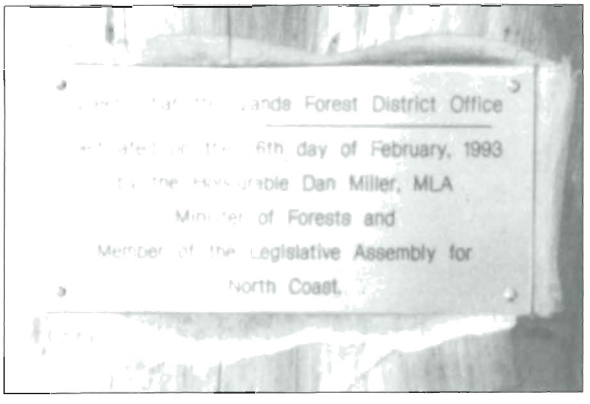
During the course of the day's events Miller, who is also MLA for North Coast, took time to meet with a variety of local groups concerned about issues ranging from senior citizen day-care programs to protection of the islands' old-growth forests.

Inside the new office the atmosphere was reminiscent of a town fair with visitors touring the new facilities and meeting the Forest Service staff. The refreshments, balloons, and assorted posters added to the festive mood especially for the many families in attendance.

As District Manager **Terry Dyer** said, "the theme for today is getting to know the people and work of the Forest Service." And that is just what happened as roughly 250 people visited the district office.

A variety of displays were developed by the local silviculture, timber, and protection staff to explain the work of the Forest Service. The district's research laboratory was also a popular spot particularly for school children. Queen Charlotte forest district is now the only district in the province to have a fully functional forest science research facility. The lab will be used by researchers working under the South Moresby Forest Replacement Account. As noted by a local teacher, the research lab provided students with an opportunity to see science at work.

*Forests Minister **Dan Miller** and District Manager **Terry Dyer** cutting ribbon to officially open new district office.*



Commemorative plaque embedded in western redcedar column.

Built and owned by C.E.D. Development of Masset, the 1 707 square metre building is under a long-term lease to the Forest Service. Before occupying the new facilities, three separate sites were required to accommodate the district's operations. Now under one roof, the modern facilities will help the 50 district employees meet the needs of an active forest resource program in the complex environment of the Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii.

*submitted by **Kevin Weaver**, co-ordinator, South Moresby Replacement Account, Queen Charlotte Islands forest district*

Please distribute to all employees at their work stations

Baseline study monitors requests for information and impact of new legislation

Have you ever wondered how many informal requests for information the Forest Service — or your office — receives? Or the type of information most requesters want? Or how much time it takes to respond to the requests?

That information and much more is included in the *Report on Informal Requests for Information*. A copy of the study should be available in every office throughout the ministry.

The study is part of the ministry's efforts to monitor the impact of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation, which will be proclaimed this fall. The legislation requires government bodies to provide reasonable access to public information, while ensuring that personal privacy is protected.

The purpose of the study was to establish baseline data to determine if the number of informal requests will increase once the legislation is in effect. The study will be repeated during the same four-week period (October-November) this year. The comparison will indicate whether there is a corresponding increase in demand on staff time to answer requests.

The information and privacy section would like to thank everyone who participated in the study.

Some highlights of the study include:

- Staff recorded 7,665 requests during the four-week period.
- Most requests (13 per cent) were about timber, with questions ranging from stumpage rates to timber sale licenses.
- Three-quarters of the requests were answered in 15 minutes or less.

Awareness sessions prepare for change

Awareness sessions are continuing to prepare staff for the changes accompanying the proclamation of the act. The information and privacy section staff have visited all regional management teams and several branch management teams. Beginning in May, the section will offer more detailed training to prepare staff to handle requests for information under the new legislation.

Are personal notes or diaries covered by the legislation?

This is a question that is commonly asked by Forest Service staff about the requirements of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation.

Any information recorded while working as a public servant would be subject to the legislation. For instance, a personal notebook belonging to Susan containing information about John's work performance is considered the personal information of John.

If you have any questions about Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy, or would like to inquire about training for your office, please contact **Jack Boomer** (356-6986) or **Doug Kelk** (953-3387).

News in brief

Recent news releases

- Hyslop report outlines recommendations for coast plywood sector – #007
- Queen Charlotte Islands forest district office officially opens – #009
- Westar returns tree farm licence #51 in the Cranberry River area of northwest British Columbia – #010
- Miller reasserts West Fraser Mills Limited's obligation to provide economic benefits and employment to the community of Prince Rupert – #011

First Nations Forestry Council elects chair and co-chair

First Nations Forestry Council members elected their chair and co-chair at their first meeting in Vancouver February 15.

Elected as the council chair was Chief **John Smith** of the Tlowitsis-Mumtagila First Nation. **Fred Lowenberger**, vice president, forestry and land use, International Forest Products Limited, was elected co-chair.

The council was established January 21 with the goal of increasing First Nations involvement in all areas of forestry. In particular, it will consider the recommendations of the Task Force on Native Forestry.

In November, 1991, the task force presented government with 20 recommendations on strategies to increase aboriginal participation in the forest sector. A key recommendation was the establishment of a First Nations Forestry Council to increase First Nations involvement in all aspects of forestry.

The next meeting of the council is scheduled for March 16 and thereafter meetings will fall on the last Tuesday of each month.

AIFM plans approved, now the exchange of knowledge begins

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) financed ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) Institute of Forest Management in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, now has an approved five-year operating plan, with the B.C. Forest Service as the Canadian executing agency.

Chief Forester **John Cuthbert**, Inventory Branch Director **Dave Gilbert**, Canadian Project Manager **Peter Ackhurst**, and representatives from CIDA joined delegates from the ASEAN member countries at a three-day project steering committee meeting on the Malaysian island of Langkawi in February, to approve the project's operating plans.

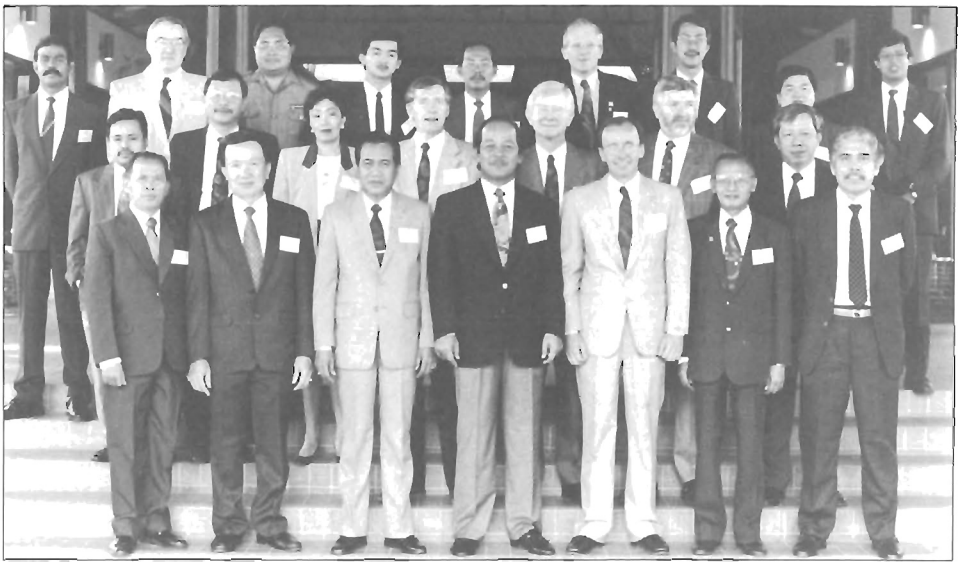
The committee members also discussed the roles, responsibilities, and relationships of all the countries involved.

The institute is being developed as a centre of excellence in tropical rainforest management and will assist the ASEAN member countries — Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, Thailand, and Indonesia — to improve their forest management practices.

The Forest Service's role is to train the Malaysian Forest Service personnel staffing the institute (see page 6 for a secondment update) by providing expertise in high technology (Geographic Information Systems and remote sensing), inventory sampling and design, and special support in ecological assessments and a number of other areas.

"Both CIDA and the ASEAN nations seemed very pleased with the project's plans and progress," said Cuthbert, the institute's Canadian project supervisor.

"The ASEAN nations have six very different cultures. Our challenge will be to adjust to these differences and the different ways of doing business that are present," says Cuthbert. "The meeting was remarkable in that all of the participants seem to operate on a consensus basis and the Director-General of the Malaysian Forest Service, who chaired the meeting, was very skillful at achieving that consensus."



Delegates to the ASEAN Institute of Forest Management project steering committee at Langkawi, Malaysia. In the back row from left to right are: ***Kasinathan Kengaiah****, AIFM-Malaysia;* ***John Wilson****, Canada; Malaysian security agent (name unavailable at press time);* ***Frederick Kugan****, Malaysia;* ***Azahar bin Muda****, Malaysia;* ***Dave Gilbert****, Canada;* ***Tay Eng Pin****, Singapore;* ***Lim Kee Leng****, AIFM-Malaysia; and* ***Samsudin bin Musa****, AIFM-Malaysia. In the middle row from left to right are:* ***Mahmud Hj. Yussof****, Brunei Darussalam; (name unavailable at press time);* ***Sheila Velarde****, Philippines;* ***Peter Ackhurst****, Canada;* ***John Cuthbert****, Canada;* ***Ralph Roberts****, Canada; and* ***Cheog Ek Choon****, Malaysia. In the front row from left to right are:* ***Djaban Tinambunan****, Indonesia;* ***Jitt Kongsangchai****, Thailand;* ***Ishak Sumantri****, Indonesia;* ***Ismail bin Awang****, Malaysia;* ***James Melanson****, Canada;* ***Abdul Latif bin Nordin****, Malaysia; and* ***Hashim bin Saad****, AIFM-Malaysia.*

"The delegates all agreed to the project's objectives and the apportionment of money and efforts in the particular project areas over the next five years," said Gilbert, who chairs the Forest Service committee overseeing interests related to secondment policy and technical content. "They also approved the first annual operating plan."

After the steering committee meeting, Cuthbert and Gilbert toured Malaysia's world-class Forest Research Institute, where they had the opportunity to experience some unique treetop walkways. They also took a field trip into the jungle to look at silvicultural practices.

"We were very impressed with the system they were using, the amount of research that had gone into developing it, and the results they were achieving," Cuthbert said.

"We saw some excellent tropical forest management practices," said Gilbert. "My impressions of the Malaysian Forest Service are very high. They have a long history and there is much that we could learn from them."

Cuthbert, who returned to Canada at the end of February, was upbeat about Forest Service involvement with the ASEAN Institute of Forest Management.

"We are going to be able to provide the ASEANs with some good training and transfer some of our knowledge on inventory, ecological classification, and information and GIS systems," he said. "By doing that we will get exposure to tropical and international forestry. So there are things they can learn from us, but there are also lots of things we can learn from them. This arrangement will be very beneficial."

Northern B.C. Winter Games is great success thanks to employee support

In early February, the City of Quesnel played host to the 19th Annual Northern B.C. Winter Games and one of the major contributors to the games' success were the Forest Service employees who gave their time and energy to pull it all together.

The Northern B.C. Winter Games differ from the B.C. Winter Games in that the focus is on athletes from 100 Mile House north only. Historically, northern athletes have been somewhat restricted by travel logistics and high costs, so these games provide an excellent opportunity for access to amateur competition.

But don't let the fact that these games are "northern" lull you into thinking that they were small — anything but! More than 2,200 athletes attended and Quesnel residents billeted 915 athletes in 335 different homes.

One home in particular deserves special recognition — **Penny Hendricks**, Quesnel's district silviculturist and husband **Kit** housed an entire adult volleyball team, found they had a couple of empty square feet and took in two more people!

Twenty-nine events were held covering everything from figure skating to indoor soccer, from marksmanship to old-timers hockey. And the event that caused the most "aggra" for the organizers? The cribbage tourney, naturally.

Two "firsts" were established this year in Quesnel — one being the introduction of the dog sled races to the Games. **Art Knauf**, resource officer, recreation, co-ordinated the layout of the route between Quesnel and Wells.

Most importantly though, three Special Olympic events were held — swimming, cross-country skiing, and bowling. These brought together a very special group of families and volunteers, who as a result of the success of these Games, have established a permanent chapter of the Special Olympics here in Quesnel.

The Forest Service has supported both the Northern and the B.C. Winter Games in the past, particularly with communications equipment. This year was no exception as protection branch supplied all the radio equipment required and the technicians to set up the base stations. The Forest Service was named a "Gold Patron" sponsor for this essential donation.

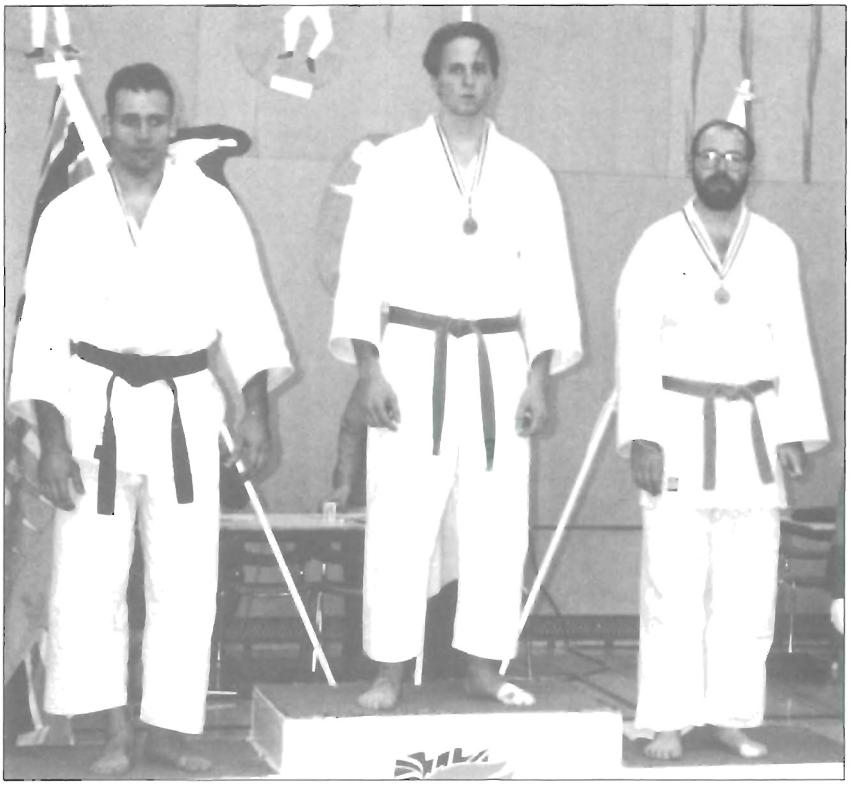
Nearly one-third of Quesnel forest district staff volunteered and supported the Games by billeting athletes, co-ordinating events, and fund-raising.

Several key role players were **Mel Dunleavey** (forestry field operations supervisor), who acted as the games' chairperson, and **Lorne Walker** (timber resource assistant), who was the director of fund-raising. **Gordon Hawkey** (forestry operations manager), was radio communications co-ordinator, **Adolph Jede** (timber resource assistant), was officials co-ordinator, and **Francis Seymour** (timber resource assistant), was casino co-ordinator. **Jeff Thompson** (protection resource assistant) and **Gerry Powell** (timber resource officer) were event co-ordinators for darts and youth indoor soccer, respectively.

A big vote of thanks is extended to all the Forest Service staff involved in making the 1993 Northern B.C. Winter Games a success — you make us all look great!

*submitted by **Deborah Lipscombe**, financial services supervisor, Quesnel forest district*

And at the *other* games . . .



*The B.C. Winter Games were held February 25–28 in Kitimat. The abysmal weather didn't stop Forest Service staffer **Ian Johnston** (shown at left) from winning the bronze medal in the judo competition. Winning the gold medal was Rob Weys of Vancouver (centre). Max Merz (left) of Mission won the silver medal. Johnston is Cranbrook forest district's planner. Congratulations Ian!*

In the right place at the right time

Deputy Chief Forester **Bronwen Beedle** thinks she is in the right place at the right time.

"It is an exciting time for the Forest Service right now," she said in a recent interview. "I was talking to someone the other day who had come from one of the other ministries and he said 'This is the best place to be right now — there is so much happening.' And I had to agree. Just look at what is coming through: the protected areas strategy, timber supply review, the forest practices code, biodiversity and fish-forestry guidelines, and the whole shared decision-making and long range planning processes. You just want to be involved in everything!"

Bronwen Beedle, deputy chief forester.

Which is a good thing because since she assumed her new role in December, the former Fort Nelson district manager has been on a crash, corporate-level course encompassing just about every major issue facing the Forest Service.

"Things have been more intense than they normally would have been in taking over this job because I had to fill in as acting chief forester for three weeks while John [Cuthbert] was in Malaysia during February. So yes, you could say I got my feet wet in a big hurry," says Beedle.

"We haven't actually worked through all the responsibilities and priorities that will be associated with this position yet," she continued. "So far I have done most of the appeals for trespass and stumpage, and it looks like I will be taking over the budgeting aspects for forestry division. I am also part of the National Forest Strategy coalition. This body is made up of representatives from all the provinces and territories and is directing the strategy's implementation. I will also be involved with National Forestry Week activities for headquarters and am very much looking forward to taking on some human resources activities as well."

Beedle has catapulted to the top ranks in four short years. She credits a good mix of practical operations experience and educational background for her rapid rise. But back in 1974, she rejected a recruitment offer to join the Forest Service after graduating with a forestry degree from the University of British Columbia.

"At that time it was Forest Service policy to hire people to go into inventory for at least two years doing classification work. But Crown Lands offered me a job that was more involved with integrated resource management and it sounded more compelling," explained Beedle.

She spent two years in Courtenay and then went to Cranbrook as district land manager for three years. "This was very interesting work because you had to deal with a great variety of resource issues from a planning and development standpoint. You did things with railroads and coal mines, timber and sludge ponds — you name it, you did it! I really enjoyed that and got to see a lot of country."

Beedle then spent seven years as a forester for Weyerhaeuser in Vavenby, where she further honed her operational skills, co-ordinating and administering the company's reforestation program, and supervising and planning the post-logging treatment programs.

In 1986 she went back to school. After earning a masters degree in business administration from Queens in 1988, she did a brief stint as forester for a private lumber company in Prince George.

Beedle became Fort Nelson's district manager in 1989 and was the first woman to hold such a position in the Forest Service.

When asked recently to give a talk about the removal of barriers to women in the field of forestry, she balked at the idea. "This was something I knew a lot about," she explained. "But I have always enjoyed the acceptance, respect, and support of my male peers. So I said, 'I can't talk about that, but I can talk about employment equity, and respect and attitudes, and how to get where you want to be, but I can't break it down and just deal with women. I prefer to talk about it at a more universal level, as anybody going through the system and trying to get ahead.' "

After three months on the job in Victoria, Beedle admits that she misses the cold, crisp snowy landscape of the Fort Nelson district and the special atmosphere and the close interaction with staff that you enjoy in a district office.

But she also likes the scope of the deputy chief forester's position, the new set of people she has met, and learning about a very different aspect of management.

"I am looking forward to being involved in the international aspects of how B.C. relates to rest of the world in forestry issues. I also hope that my interaction with both environmental and aboriginal groups will continue because I have always found them to be interesting aspects of the job," says Beedle.

She admits that it is going to take a good six months to a year to know what she is doing in this job.

"I guess you always hope you can make a difference," she says. "I am just not sure what my 'difference' is here yet."

Welcome to Fred's Forest!

Your good friend Fred has recently been granted a woodlot licence for 40 hectares of land adjacent to his farm.

Half of the woodlot is picturesque and Fred wants to leave this intact for the enjoyment of wildlife and recreation. The other half is flat and well suited to growing trees. In fact, just before Fred got his licence, 10 hectares was harvested. Now he would like to replant this area so that one day his family can harvest a new crop of trees and make a profit by selling the lumber.

But the amount of profit Fred's small plantation will generate depends on many biological and economic factors, and several management decisions must be made. For instance, how many seedlings should Fred plant, and how and when should he thin and prune his trees to ensure that they will grow to be large and healthy? And when should he or his children harvest the crop?

This scenario is part of a lively new interactive computer game developed by the research branch's forest productivity and decision support group.

Called "Fred's Forest," the game, which was written by **Ken Polsson**, introduces, and helps to demystify, the concepts of growth and yield for plantation timber production. It combines several software simulation packages to provide a "tree-dimensional" view of the growth resulting from various management decisions. After the final decision is made to harvest the crop, a financial report shows the player the "bottom line" — did the player's choices help Fred make or lose money after all the forestry costs and revenues from the sale of lumber are considered?

"It was designed for intermediate school students, informal public demonstrations, open houses, and introductory forestry training programs," says **Mario Di Lucca**, a growth and yield analyst who provided creative assistance for the project.

The game made its debut in Prince George February 3 and 4 at an integrated resource management forum called "Working Together, Living Together," organized by the Northern Silviculture Committee, the Forest Service, and Forestry Canada.

More than 1,200 grade 4 to 10 students and about 100 adults became "hands-on" forest managers for a few minutes, while they tried to help Fred grow the best trees and make as much money as possible.

"The general consensus at the forum was that the game was a very effective educational tool for both children and adults," says Di Lucca.

Fred's Forest also made quite an impact at a Forestry Canada Modelling Working Group meeting at the Pacific Forestry Centre in Victoria on February 8 and 9. Here, some of the brightest scientific minds in growth modelling were introduced to the game but all fell short of achieving top scores or maximizing Fred's profit.

"The beauty of this game is that it can introduce the elementary ideas of growth and yield to children and help forestry professionals test their assumptions about which forest management regimes are the most profitable," says **Tom Niemann**, manager of forest productivity and decision support.

The game will continue to be expanded and improved. A more technical version is expected to be available later this year.

For further information contact **Tom Niemann** at 387-6642 or **Mario Di Lucca** at 387-6679.

Staffing update for the ASEAN Institute of Forest Management

S.A.Y. Omule, forest mensurationist with the inventory branch, has been selected for a 24- to 36-month posting in Kuala Lumpur and will be departing in June. As growth and yield specialist, he will be providing training and support services to institute staff and their ASEAN counterparts.

Job postings for a remote sensing and a soils and hydrology specialist close at the end of March. Candidates for these positions will be selected by mid-April.

A secondment opportunity notice for the position of ecology and land use planner will be circulated to district, region, and branch offices in early April.

For further information about the ASEAN Institute of Forest Management and secondment opportunities contact **Kathi Mitchell**, Canadian project administrator, at 356-0705.

Appointments

Nick Krischanowsky, executive co-ordinator of the management services division, transferred to the operations division March 1. Krischanowsky is working at the valuation branch for one year, furthering his career development.

Lyla Smith started with the corporate policy and planning branch March 1. She is assisting with work being done on co-operative management. Smith was previously executive secretary in the deputy minister's office.

Animals on the air

What do Great Grey Owls, elk, wolverines, and bats all have in common? They've all been subjects on **Scott Harrison's** radio show, broadcast every Tuesday morning throughout northern B.C. from CBC's Prince George studios.

When he's not on the air, Harrison is a wildlife ecologist with the Prince George forest region. He is based at the Fort St. John forest district office, along with fellow forest science staffers **Winn Hays, Richard Kabzems**, and **Rod Negrave**. Harrison's fill-in host is his wife Georgie, who also happens to be an ecologist.

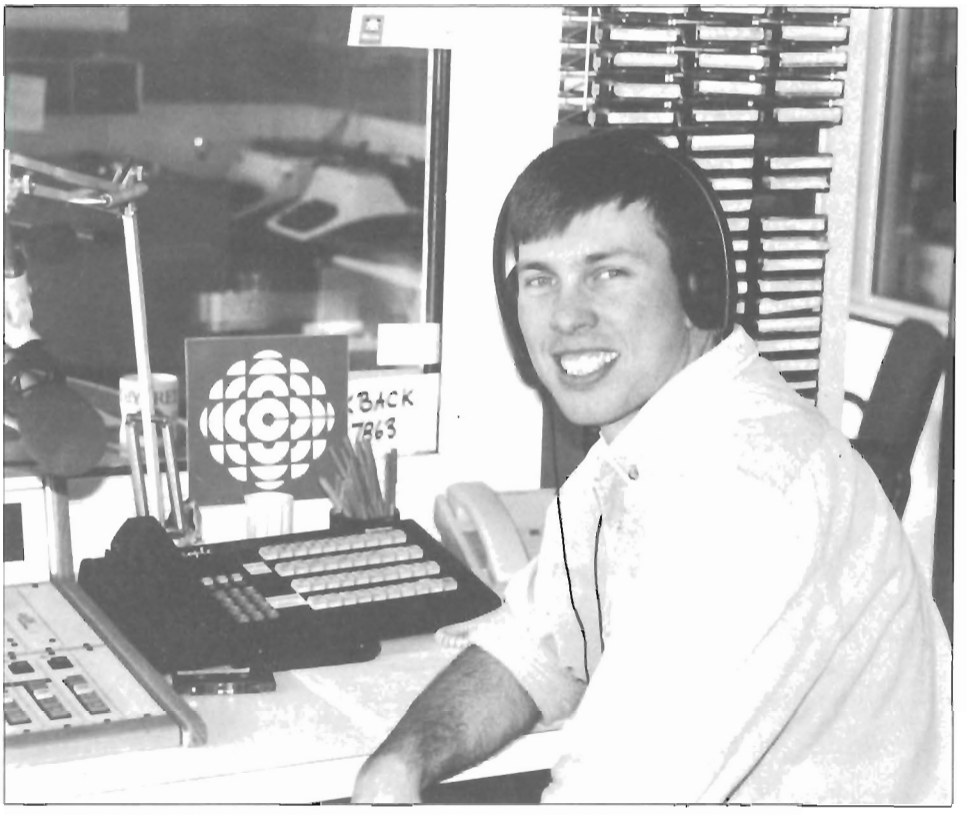
The show is modelled after a similar one **Alison Nicholson** (research branch) and her husband **Roger Hunter** used to do, which was also broadcast on CBC. Harrison developed this version with the help of announcer **Sophie Wilson**, who asks the questions and packages the show.

"I was asked if I would be interested in doing a bit on wildlife information and it evolved into a weekly show. I saw it as an opportunity to talk about wildlife and wildlife habitat issues," Harrison explained.

Reaction to the program, which has been on the air for about six months, has been enthusiastic. Harrison has received letters and calls to CBC's talkback line. "People call to talk about their experiences with the animals we mention. I've found people in B.C. have a certain affinity to wildlife.

"In the shows I try to cross the spectrum of species. I intersperse ungulates and large mammals with birds, amphibians and other species." Other subjects have included hibernation, snags and wildlife trees, and the lack of snow this year and its implications for wildlife.

Harrison says the main work involved with the show is ensuring that his facts are straight, "because everyone is an expert on wildlife, and they'll call you if they feel you've made a mistake!"



*Wildlife ecologist **Scott Harrison** in CBC-Radio's Prince George studios.*

And is all the work worthwhile? Do listeners remember who he is? Definitely so, said Harrison. "There's no question people know I'm with the Forest Service. I've received feedback from the public that they're happy to see the Ministry of Forests employing wildlife ecologists."

Harrison's program can be heard Tuesdays at approximately 7:15 am Pacific Standard Time, in most of north central B.C. Call CBC-Radio's Prince George studios at 562-6701 for more information.

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

We passed!

Congratulations to silviculture branch, Green Timbers Nursery, and the Prince George Tree Improvement Station for passing the administrative records management system (ARCS) audit.

The ARCS audit is a very intensive process and requires good organization, dedication, and hard work from those given the task of preparing for ARCS registration. The value of good records management is now fully understood and appreciated by our staff.

Our special thanks to **Norah Thornton**, silviculture branch receptionist and records management clerk; **Gayle Sahl**, Green Timbers office manager; and **Sharon Talbot**, Prince George Tree Improvement Station office manager for a job very well done.

*submitted by **Jacky Crouch**, office services supervisior, silviculture branch*

Scholarship fund to honor memory of Brenda Hanson

Brenda Hanson was a graduate of the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Forestry and a B.C. Registered Professional Forester. During her career she was involved in the development and application of timber supply analysis techniques, first with the B.C. Forest Service and more recently with a consulting firm.

Ten years ago Brenda was diagnosed with leukemia. Her quiet, determined struggle against her disease inspired her colleagues and friends. Throughout this period she remained active in professional organizations and in the development of analysis techniques for integrated forest resource management.

Brenda died on February 18, 1993. She is missed by her family, friends and colleagues.

The Faculty of Forestry at UBC is establishing a scholarship fund in Brenda's memory. The goal is to secure adequate funding to create an annual or biannual scholarship or prize for a graduate student specializing in integrated resource planning and timber supply analysis.

Contributions should be identified as being for the Brenda Hanson Scholarship and be sent to **Dr. John McLean**, UBC Faculty of Forestry, Room 270, 2357 Main Mall, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z4. Cheques should be made payable to the University of British Columbia.

These contributions are tax deductible and receipts will be issued.

For further information about the fund contact **Darrell Errico**, integrated resources branch, 387-5111.

Miller presents United Way "Gold Awards"

Forest Service staff dug deeply into their pockets for the 1992 Provincial Employees Community Services Fund drive, with two branches, protection and economics and trade, winning United Way "Gold Award," status. These awards are based on a 75 per cent participation rate and an average gift of one day's pay, or $80.

Forests Minister **Dan Miller** presented the gold plaques to protection branch March 5, and economics and trade March 16.

Thanks to the generosity of employees and the dedication of branch representatives, contributions totalled $44,152 this year, compared to $42,584 in 1991.

*Forests Minister **Dan Miller** presents United Way "Gold Award" to the protection branch's community services fund drive representative **Veronica Barlee**.*

Retirements

Neil Chapman, program manager of the administration section, technical and administrative services branch, is retiring April 30 after 14 years of service with the provincial government.

Chapman joined the Forest Service in 1979. He moved to the then Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing in 1982. In 1986 he returned to work with the Forest Service.

A dinner and farewell celebration will be held in Victoria April 30. Those interested in attending Chapman's retirement party should contact **Barbara Ross** at 387-6538 or **Janet McIntyre** at 387-3494.

Two of Salmon Arm district's staff will be retiring this spring.

A double retirement celebration will be held May 1 for **Walter Neros**, field operations supervisor, and **Wayne Fleming**, field delivery resource assistant.

These two long-time employees have had a total of 70 years with the Forest Service. Neros started in 1959 and Fleming in 1957.

Contact **John Delay** or **Glenn Hill** of the Salmon Arm forest district office (832-1401) for further information about the celebration.

The **B.C. Forest Service Newsletter** is published by the Public Affairs Branch, Ministry of Forests, located at 595 Pandora Street, Victoria.

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