Forest Service

Vol. 3, No 8 A newsletter for Ministry of Forests' employees August 1993

ASEAN forestry study group tours B.C.

A two-week, three-province Canadian forestry study tour for representatives of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) began in Victoria on August 4. The focus of the tour was to provide senior forestry officials with an opportunity to see and hear how Canada is managing its forests and to demonstrate related technology in a Canadian and international context.

Delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand were welcomed by **John Cuthbert**, chief forester.

In his opening remarks Cuthbert noted that there are significant differences between Asian forests and political issues and those facing British Columbia. However, rather than present the tour as a source of solutions, Cuthbert stressed that this was intended as a forum for exchange of information and ideas as well as an opportunity for all participants, including Canadians, to gain a broader view of international forestry issues and management practices.

Deputy Chief Forester **Bronwen Beedle** gave the delegates an overview of forestry in B.C. with **Ray Addison**, director, integrated resources branch; **Tom Hall**, director, recreation branch; and, **Dale Seip**, ecologist, Prince George region, speaking on the Forest Practices Code, the Protected Areas Strategy and biodiversity respectively.

The first day activities also included visits to inventory branch and the Glyn Road research facility.

Before leaving B.C., the group toured harvesting, research, and reforestation sites on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland.

The ASEAN tour is a joint project between the B.C. Forest Service Asian Institute of Forest Management (AIFM) and Natural Resources Canada.

*As part of a welcoming ceremony **Dato' Abdul Latif Nordin**, deputy director general of the Penninsular Malaysia Forest Department and Chief Forester **John Cuthbert** exchange gifts and applause.*

Protection scholarship will fund smoke jumping study

Assistant Deputy Minister of Operations **Wes Cheston** has announced that **Trevor Olafsson** is the first beneficiary of the Protection Scholarship Fund.

The scholarship fund was established by the B.C. Forest Service in 1992 to support research and development of programs, equipment, training and technological innovations in fire and aviation management. It provides up to $5,000 to research, develop, or investigate a specific initiative such as an original training module, a new technology, or a new policy direction.

The scholarship encourages Forest Service employees to develop ideas and methods that will enable B.C. to retain its world leadership in forest protection. The fire suppression program is always seeking innovative ways to provide better response at less cost.

Olafsson will research the feasibility and viability of smoke jumping as an initial attack method in British Columbia. Smoke jumping crews are deployed by parachute, usually from fixed wing aircraft which have greater range and carrying capacity than helicopters. During the 1992 fire season, Yukon smoke jumpers were deployed in the Cariboo with positive results. Smoke jumping has been in use in the United States for more than 50 years.

Olafsson's research will include the history of smoke jumping, injury rates, comparison of terrain and fire history, and cost benefit analysis.

Olafsson is in his second year as an initial attack foreman with the Morice forest district. He has six years of initial attack experience in British Columbia.

*Contributed by **Sylvia Pang**, manager, communications and research, protection branch.*

Please distribute to all employees at their work stations

Staff efforts pay off in successful planning workshop

By all accounts the Lakes district forest planning workshop for local native groups was a success. The two-day workshop, held at the Lake Babine Band Hall June 15 and 16, attracted more than 40 band members, hereditary chiefs and tribal council members.

Lakes district Operations Manager **Bob Murray**, said that the idea for the workshop came from discussions on joint stewardship issues with the Broman Lake Band. First Nations representatives wanted to be more involved in forest planning at the strategic level. The initial concept was to provide an overview of planning with emphasis on recognizing and accommodating local issues.

"Over and above that," Murray says, "what we really wanted was to explain what planning was, from a provincial level right down to the district level, including pre-harvest silviculture prescriptions, five-year development plans and land and resource management plans. Native participation in the planning process is really important to us and we need their input."

"We wanted to keep the numbers to about 40 participants so we sent invites, band by band, asking for three representatives from each. It didn't work out exactly that way but we had a good cross-section from the aboriginal community."

The workshop also included two adjacent districts, Morice and Bulkley. "As soon as we start dealing with the bands," Murray says, "there are subgroups within the main band that tie other districts together, so we had to co-ordinate with the Morice and the Bulkley districts and bring them into the picture as well."

Murray attributes a great deal of this workshop's success to good relations with the native community plus a detailed understanding of the personalities involved. "Here we have very good relations with the bands, we have a lot of First Nations involvement with forestry. Since 1991 we have been working on developing a closer relationship in the native community. We have native unit crews, we have economic incentives. We've trained native contractors and they are bidding competitively with other contractors."

"This was a reasonable success but we had a good knowledge of who was coming and what they were interested in. We set up the workshop to accommodate all this."

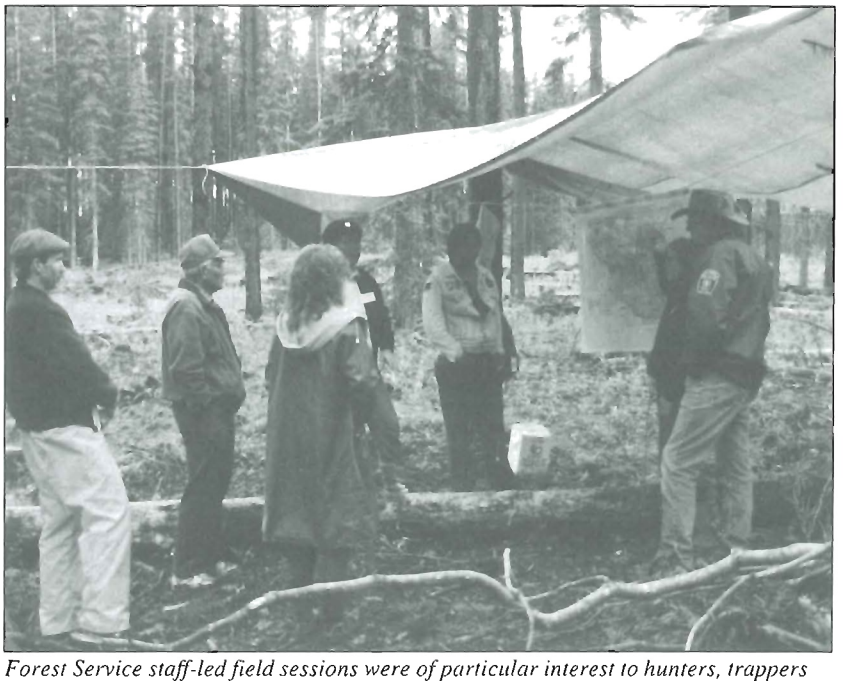
"This was where **John Gerow**, our native liaison person was really important as a resource to tell us exactly what First Nations are interested in learning and what they want to teach us."

Murray also says that district and regional staff played an important role in making the workshop come together. "Just setting everything up was a major undertaking for our staff and the people in Morice and Bulkley districts. In the workshops themselves we mainly used local people as presenters so that participants could identify with the people providing the information. From time to time we also used native translators drawn from the local community."

The workshop also included field sessions led by Forest Service staff. These were of particular interest to participants who make their livelihood from the forest such as hunters, trappers and guides. "People have different priorities. Some are interested in overall issues while others are interested in addressing a specific resource. That is something we can really concentrate on in forest management. Those are tangible things to put into a plan. But we have to know what it is before we can do it," Murray explained.

Christie Brown, manager, interim measures and aboriginal programs, points out that workshops like this serve a multitude of purposes. "The workshop focused the group. So often what you come together for is a cross-cultural training session. This workshop brought people together over a real issue and the cross-cultural exchange happens anyway. The bands gave input of what they liked and what they didn't like about our way of doing business, how they wanted to be consulted, and how they thought the Forest Service could do things differently. It was a wonderful effort in getting people together on such an important issue. The outcome will be greater participation in planning, and could also lead to more memorandums of understanding."

Since the workshop, Lakes district staff have assembled booklets summarizing the information that was presented and discussions that took place. These will be distributed to workshop participants from the three districts. A facilitator's handbook is also available from the Lakes district.



Forest Service staff-led field sessions were of particular interest to hunters, trappers and guides.

GIS project management handbook is now available

The Geographic Information System (GIS) client support team has published the **GIS Project Management Handbook**. This handbook is currently being distributed to all branch directors and regional and district managers. Its purpose is to assist ministry staff in organizing and managing GIS projects by applying general project management principles to GIS applications. The focus of the handbook is on getting the job done rather than giving specific details on GIS products or the actual analysis process. It is designed to guide the user through each step of managing a GIS project from defining the scope through to assessing the completed project.

Although project managers will be the primary users of the handbook, the information applies to all members of the project team from the manager who commissions a GIS project to the operator who digitizes the linework.

The GIS steering committee has reviewed this publication and recommends wide distribution throughout the ministry in all sites that use GIS, whether it is being used on-site or on a contract basis. Reference is made in the handbook to a diskette which is included with the manual, with templates for various project management forms. Rather than producing diskettes for distribution, this information can be downloaded on the Map Distribution Management System (MDM). Downloading instructions can be found on the BBGIS bulletin board on OfficeVision.

The GIS client support team is presently developing a training course to teach staff how to apply the techniques in the handbook to GIS projects. This course will most likely be distributed to each office in a Computer Based Training (CBT) format. Notification will be given when this course is completed.

In order to make this handbook a more effective tool for completing GIS projects, the GIS client support team is requesting that staff take time to provide feedback on the manual's content and their experiences in applying these methods to GIS projects. User feedback will play an important role in future revisions to the handbook.

The GIS Project Management Handbook is available through technical and administrative services branch in Victoria.

*Contributed by **Betty Corbin-Charman**, GIS client team, Nelson forest region.*

Freedom of information: collection of personal information

The *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (the *Act*) was passed in June 1992 and is to be proclaimed in October 1993. In this second article in a three part series on protection of privacy, the information and privacy section would like to focus on the collection of personal information.

Under the *Act*, no personal information may be collected by or for the ministry or any other public body unless: the collection of that information is authorized by law; the information is collected for the purpose of law enforcement; or, the information is directly related to and is needed for, an operating program or activity of the ministry.

Methods of collecting information include interviews, forms, questionnaires and letters.

Where a contractor or any outside body is hired to collect personal information, the contract must include clauses which stipulate that the outside agency agrees to abide by the *Act*.

An example of information directly related to, and needed for an operating program of the ministry would be a job applicant's work history. That information is directly related to the assessment of the individual's qualifications relative to the basic requirements of the position. Such information may be collected for use in screening applications to determine which applicants should be short-listed for a competition.

The ministry must collect personal information directly from the individual it is about unless another method of collection is authorized by that individual, the information and privacy commissioner, or another enactment. Special purposes under which the ministry may collect personal information from sources other than the individual the information is about include information needed for: collecting a debt or fine; determining the suitability for an honour or award; or, proceeding before a court or a judicial or quasi-judicial tribunal.

The ministry must also inform an individual from whom it collects the information the purpose and legal authority for collecting that information and where the individual might receive answers to questions about the collection.

*If you have questions about freedom of information and protection of privacy, contact: **Jack Boomer** (phone 356-6986), **Doug Kelk** (phone 953-3386) or, **Keith Brubacher** (phone 953-3387).*

Welcome

Diane Goode, formerly of the ministry of environment, lands and parks, has joined the interim measures and aboriginal programs section as a senior researcher. Goode will be overseeing and managing First Nations participation in land and resource management plans and development of interim measures.

John Marczyk has assumed the position of senior policy analyst for the aboriginal policy and treaty negotiations section, corporate policy and planning branch.

Frank Blom has been appointed to the position of regional timber officer in Kamloops region.

Stephen Stearn-Smith is the new growth and yield extension forester at research branch.

Speakers unlock the keys to power at popular event

More than 150 government staff members and guests turned out May 11 in Victoria in search of answers to the personal power puzzle: what is it? who has it? how do you develop it? how do you use it?

Deputy Chief Forester **Bronwen Beedle** moderated the evening of insights. The session at Victoria's Ramada Inn was organized and sponsored by the Forest Service Women's Program.

Dulcie McCallum, Ombudsman of British Columbia, who told the group she wore a bright orange jacket to her interview for the ombudsman's job, said she does not, as ombudsman, have much direct power — just power to recommend.

"People perceive power but I can't make definitive decisions," she said. "If you look in Webster's dictionary, power is the possession of influence over others. A synonym is force. Power also sounds like the word war.

"Power is not just a show of strength," Dulcie told the attentive crowd. "It's about sharing power. Women are collectively bargaining for a finite amount of power in the world. Women are far more astute about sharing power, which relates to us being the primary caregivers. We teach self-reliance. We teach a sense of self. We help seniors retain their independence and we help children gain their independence."

Dulcie said women also bring a principled approach to business.

"We have a clear vision of what is to be achieved. We have more of a sense of equity and we take all parties' interests into account. We have greater tolerance, respect and understanding."

Dulcie, the first woman to hold the ombudsman's job, encouraged those present to have a sense of humour and enjoy a joke.

"During my first interview for the ombudsman's job, I had this all-party selection committee laughing. When I told my husband, he said I'd get the runner-up award for Miss Congeniality."

Dulcie said an interview should be a warm and memorable experience.

Five Ps

Dianne Lawson, director of government air services, ministry of government services, based her presentation on what she called the five Ps; purpose, principles, personality, people and public. Drawing on her past experience, Dianne said we must set goals and identify ways to reach them.

"I set my first goal as financial independence. You have to decide what you are prepared and not prepared to do. Know what your values are. Know your personality traits. Articulate your expectations. Tell people who you are and what you can offer. Tell people what your needs are. They can help you and give you ideas."

Dianne delighted the crowd with her quip: "Women don't have hot flashes, they have power surges."

Ardath Paxton Mann, director of client ministries and regional support services, ministry of economic development, small business and trade, told the gathering self esteem and power are closely interrelated.

"Say what you genuinely think and not what people want you to say," she said. "True leadership is someone who consistently operates with integrity. They get the respect of others."

Drawing on quotes from former Governor General Jeanne Sauve and former Ontario Justice Rosalie Abella, Ardath encouraged women to work together to share ideas and capitalize on our potential to move beyond traditional territory.

"Women are gaining power. We are coming together to share ideas. As Madame Sauve said, women need to stop being afraid of power, they need to just take it and use it."

You have it

Thea Vakil, assistant deputy minister, management services, said personal power is something you have — you have to learn to develop it.

"If knowledge used to be power, now information is power. Sharing information is power. Information is withheld because people think that is power. People want to keep secrets. There's nothing confidential unless it is personal.

"If you want power, share it," Thea said. "If you hang on to power, you lose it. Empower the people who work for you, or your friends, or the people who work with you. You'll become powerful and they will feel better."

*Five powerful presenters: (left to right) **Ardath Paxton Mann**, director, client ministries and regional support services, ministry of economic development, small business and trade; **Dianne Lawson**, director, government air services, ministry of government services; **Thea Vakil**, assistant deputy minister, management services; **Bronwen Beedle**, deputy chief forester; and, **Dulcie McCallum**, Ombudsman of British Columbia.*

Thea told the gathering that if people want power in an organization, they need to know the process.

"Know the rules and use them to your advantage. Know your job — not your job description — but what it is in the organization. Define the boundaries broadly. If they are narrow, you have less power.

"It's where you fit and how what you do links to the organization," Thea said. "Know who you are and where you fit. You can get results because you know the rules. You can get anything.

"If the rules are wrong, right them. Work with them to your advantage. It doesn't mean playing games with the rules, it means using them to your advantage."

Thea also urged those present to build on their strengths by seeking job opportunities that use those abilities.

"Let people know that you are strong in these areas but work on your weaknesses in secret. Weaknesses are obvious — people will notice them so turn them into strengths."

You belong

"Walk into a room because you belong there. Feel confident. Look confident. Behave as if you know it all."

Thea also urged people to take risks and make decisions.

"It's very powerful to take risks. If you never make decisions, you can never be wrong but it's OK to be wrong — once. Divorce your ego from your position. People are so tied up with the job and their position they can't let go. Give up your ego so you don't tie it to your job.

"Laugh at yourself. If you can do that, you have achieved personal power because it no longer matters."

During the question period following the presentations, each of the speakers encouraged those present to seek out mentors. Dianne encouraged people to call folks they are interested in meeting and invite them for coffee.

Dulcie, a long-time advocate for the mentally handicapped, said much of her power has come from people who have mental handicaps. She said some of the most moving and powerful experiences in her life have been from people who have very little power.

Wrapping up the very popular evening gathering, Ardath reminded those present to look for opportunities to work on special projects and secondments.

"Make sure your supervisor knows where you want to go. Look for opportunities to explore new skills."

*Contributed by **Wendy Stewart**, public affairs branch, women's programs steering committee.*

Phase one of CTCSS implementation is now complete

It's not a disease or even a new computer term. CTCSS stands for Continuous Tone Coded Squelch System, a system designed to reduce radio interference between forest districts.

The radios used by the Forest Service only broadcast along straight lines. Because of this, a network of repeater stations receives and re-broadcasts transmissions both to other radio sets and other repeaters.

CTCSS works by limiting transmissions on repeater channels to those repeater stations in your district. During the past 10 months, radio technicians have visited all the repeaters in the southern part of the province (including some that were under snow) to insert special hardware. Portable, mobile, and base stations have been modified as well.

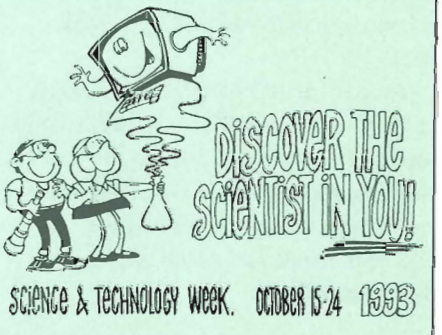
Now when a radio or repeater that has been modified receives a signal, it looks for a special sub-audible tone assigned to that district. You will only hear the signal when the correct tone is present. This means that you will no longer hear conversations originating in adjacent districts. In addition to the district tone there is also a provincial tone that will activate any of the 250 repeaters in the province.

The net result of this innovation is that a much higher volume of transmissions can be accommodated on the radio system using the 10 existing repeater channels. This should, in turn, increase effective communications in the field.

Phase one of the implementation has brought CTCSS to the Kamloops, Nelson and Cariboo regions as well as Chilliwack, Duncan, Port Alberni, Sunshine Coast, Campbell River and Squamish districts in the Vancouver region. Phase two will see CTCSS implemented throughout the province.

Information on CTCSS is available from regional electronics superintendents or from the electronics section of technical and administrative services branch at 387-6644.

*Contributed by **David Wegelin**, program manager, electronics operations, technical and administrative services.*



A province-wide celebration of British Columbia achievement and success, Science and Technology Week '93 links business, education and government. Science and Technology Week partners will organize events and activities that focus primarily on children and their parents.

If you would like to get involved, please contact **Ingrid Smith**, science and technology week coordinator, at 387-1628, or **Francois Blain**, technology transfer officer, Pacific and Yukon Region, Natural Resources Canada, at 363-0715, for more information.

Science and Technology Week is coordinated by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology.

Olympians battle elements in fire suppression events

Seventeen teams battled cold weather, pounding rain, and sloppy mud June 11 and 12 as forest fire fighters from throughout B.C. gathered on Mt. Lolo just north of Kamloops for the sixth annual B.C. Forest Service Fire Suppression Olympics.

Jason Hardisty, **John Saari**, **Mark Little** and **Bruce Morrow**, the H.I.S. Ventures from Kamloops, took top honours in four of the 12 events for the overall championship.

Second spot went to **Norm Calliou**, **Jeff Kelley**, **Michael Rullman** and **Bruce Loewen**, the Prince Rupert forest region's Highlander Initial Attack Crew from Smithers.

Kamloops district initial attack crew members **Rod Allen**, **Roger Forester**, **Louis Sardinha** and coach **Russ Jeffries** combined for third place honours.

Competitors faced a tough two days of competition as organizers challenged the physical fitness, cooking, equipment repair, and first aid abilities of the men and women who battle B.C.'s forest fires.

More than 100 people were camped at Mt. Lolo as organizers staged a camp set-up workshop just prior to the fire suppression event. Also on hand were camp support staff who provided excellent meals and snacks throughout the competition.

Joining the entrants for part of the competition were visitors from Mexico and Honduras who were on hand to show off some of their fire preparedness skills and visit with B.C. competitors.

Also observing the competition were members of the Western Legislative Forestry Task Force, including representatives from Oregon, Alaska, California, Washington, Idaho, and Alberta.

Other teams included: Dominatrix Crew, Clearwater forest district; Burnaked Ladies, protection branch, Victoria; Humble Street Crew, Lillooet; Vernon Fire Stalkers, Vernon Unit Crew; Vernon District Initial Attack Crew, Vernon forest district; Puntzi Muscle, Cariboo Initial Attack Crew; Puntzi Pounders, Cariboo Initial Attack; Helitak Initial Attack Crew, Kamloops forest region; Clearwater District Initial Attack Crew; Squamish Dirt, Squamish forest district; Nicola Unit Crew; Merritt forest district; Horsefly Crew, Horsefly forest district; and Rappattack, Forest Service Rappattack Base, Salmon Arm.

*Article and photos contributed by **Wendy Stewart**, public affairs branch.*

*The olympic spirit, top: Kamloops District Manager **Bob Clark** and Regional Manager **Fred Baxter** ignite the olympic flame. Above: The management team makes a brave showing in the tug-of-war event. Right: Olympic calibre chin-ups are just a part of winning.*

Cattle drive provides an educational opportunity

Cattledrive '93 is Kamloops' answer to people who want the kind of vacation where they can get away from it all or maybe just get a glimpse of a way of life that is long past. The four-day event attracted riders from all over the province to drive a herd of cattle over a 90 kilometre route. The event has become very popular with more than 420 people participating this year.

Judy Steves, a range agrologist with Kamloops district, attended Cattledrive '93 to talk to participants about resource use and management along the route.

Recognizing that half the trip is on crown land, the Cattledrive committee approached the Forest Service in 1992. Part of their goal was to have Forest Service involvement from a resource management perspective. The committee also wanted to make sure all the logistics of the trip met with Forest Service requirements.

Steves and co-worker **Mike Dedels** set up an information display at the beginning of the trip and arranged for sign posts along the way indicating points of interest. Steves says that, while the cattle drive was not an educational forum, it did afford participants with plenty of information and opportunities to ask questions.

Steves, who had attended a previous cattledrive as a participant, has fond memories of the trip, the people and even the rain. Steves also wrote a poem that was included in the Cattledrive '93 handbook. The poem, included here in part, is dedicated to the pioneers. Not only the "old-timers," but also those ranchers who are willing to try new methods in these changing times. It also carries an educational message on the role of the Forest Service.

from *The Long and Winding Trail* by ***Judy Steves***

"Cattle free by '93" is the cry from the States.
I'm afeared this may be the cattleman's fate.
Seems the concern is environmental harm,
They want the cattle to stay on the farm.
I scratches my head and spits out some chew,
I don't understand: we're environmentalists too.

In the past, the valleys were overgrazed,
during the fur trading gold rush days.
Then ranches were settled and linked with Crown range.
We were here for the long term, so grazing use changed.
During the last century the range has improved,
and management methods are improving too.

I shift in the saddle and look back down the trail,
It's a long way we've come, hopefully not to no avail.
Changin' our methods, when we learn nature's needs,
"Walkin' gently on land," with no dirty deeds.
So my sons and daughters can take over the ranch,
in another ten years after I've had my chance.

New program trains local people for work in local forests

The Forest Worker Development Program (FWDP), under the BC 21 - Building Our Future initiative, has been providing hundreds of seasonal jobs for more than three months.

Aimed at providing work and training for the unemployed and people receiving income assistance, the FWDP combines the most effective aspects of previous programs, with innovative long-term strategies for training and forest industry development.

The $49.6 million in funding from BC 21 for the FWDP and the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program (SBFEP) makes up about half of BC 21's total budget of $100 million this year. From this amount, $26.6 million is for FWDP and $17 million is for SBFEP. Another $6 million goes to the Ministry of Social Services which has added $6.9 million from existing program funds.

The program is expected to create 3,000 seasonal forestry positions at a variety of skill levels. While many of the positions will be created at an entry level, a unique feature of the program is the new bridging level positions. These positions will provide more intensive training to workers who have some forestry experience, including those who have participated in earlier training programs.

The local contracting level funds work for qualfied people who can contract with the Forest Service directly and hire crews themselves. The BC 21 funding for SBFEP is applied at this level.

By connecting forestry contractors with local people, the FWDP will help develop B.C.'s forest assets while meeting the BC 21 priorities of regional diversification, equity and training.

The program will benefit traditionally disadvantaged groups such as young adults, women, visible minorities, and aboriginal people. The new training elements will provide opportunities for these people to achieve greater independance in their own communities.

Launched in this spring's provincial budget, BC 21 coordinates key public investments to complement private sector activities in a more effective approach to economic development in all regions of the province.

*For more information contact **Brad Harris**, phone 387-8911 or **Margot Spence**, phone 387-8904, at silviculture branch.*

Provincial golf tournament

September 11 and 12, Williams Lake

The Forest Service golf tournament is a perfect opportunity to visit old friends, make new friends, relax and have fun. The tournament is geared to golfers at all skill levels. To register, contact **Christine Kennedy,** Cariboo regional office, phone 398-4247.

Earthquake drill tests emergency response procedures

June 24 saw Forest Service headquarters staff scurrying for cover as accident prevention section conducted an earthquake drill. Fire wardens supervised the duck-and-cover procedure and directed an orderly exit of the building. Staff were sent to a staging area which would be free from falling debris in the event of an actual earthquake.

Loss Prevention Officer ***Ted England*** *says that the exercise was not a race to get people out of the building. It was designed to test procedures and exit routes and, most importantly, to have the wardens make sure people understood the need to wait for tremors to stop before attempting to go outside. Headquarters whistleblowers (left to right):* ***Janice Wong, Steve McQuillan, Carol Stewart, Jim Challenger, Lorraine Methot, Ray Birtwistle,*** *and* ***Derek Greer.***

Recreation program receives FRDA funding

The Recreation Program has received $2 million from the Canada-British Columbia Partnership Agreement on Forest Resource Development (FRDA II) for its Visual Landscape Management and Forest Interpretation activities.

Bill Marshall, senior recreation forester, said, "The ministry felt that some recreation program activities should qualify for FRDA funding and we are pleased that the federal government agreed. Visual landscape management and forest interpretation are two activities that were identified for now. These funds will allow districts, regions and recreation branch to initiate and continue important projects and studies in these two expanding fields."

"The $1.4 million for visual landscape management (VLM) will enable the continuation of fundamental research in areas such as public perception studies on visually effective green-up," **Jacques Marc**, senior landscape forester, says. "It will also enable us to continue our development of provincial VLM guidelines and landscape design procedures, which we would have been unable to do otherwise, and assist regions and districts in the completion of visual landscape inventories, the analysis of visual values and the planning and design of forest operations in visually sensitive areas."

Of the funds designated for VLM, roughly $1.15 million has been allocated to the districts and regions for inventory of visually sensitive areas, establishing visual quality objectives (VQOs), designing forest operations to meet VQOs, and monitoring forest operations to ensure that VQO's are achieved.

Forest Interpretation Specialist **George Sranko** says interpretive forests are developed to interpret, demonstrate and facilitate the discussion of forest resources and their management.

There are currently 79 interpretive forest sites in the province and almost every district has at least one. Forest interpretation plays a key role in the ministry's communication activities and has a direct impact on the day-to-day operations of the Forest Service and our public image.

Interpretive forests have long been an operational reality but with little funding, particularly for maintenance. Over half a million dollars has been allocated to the districts and regions for rehabilitating and upgrading many existing interpretive forest sites and developing a few new ones.

The $600,000 allocation for forest interpretation will enable the completion of a forest interpretation policy framework, through the establishment of a steering committee. It will also contribute to the development of procedures and standards for constructing and maintaining interpretive forest sites.

For more information contact ***Bill Marshall*** *at 387-8382,* ***Jacques Marc*** *at 387-8481 or,* ***George Sranko*** *at 356-5890.*

The **B.C. Forest Service Newsletter** is published on the second Monday of every month by the B.C. Forest Service, public affairs branch, at 595 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, British Columbia.

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Contributions are welcome. Please send your comments, suggestions and contributions to: **Paul Lackhoff**, editor (phone: 953-3142, PROFS: PTLACKHO) at Public Affairs Branch or, **Gordon Williams** (phone/fax: 380-9959).

The deadline for contributions to the next issue of *Forest Service* is August 27, 1993.