The British Columbia
Forest Service Newsletter

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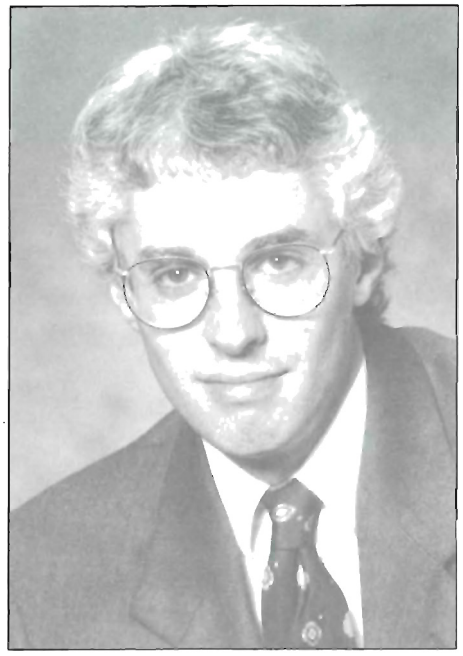
New minister: sustainable forestry and forest practices code are key priorities



Andrew Petter, minister of forests: "Sustainable forestry will be a priority."

Andrew Petter grew up in the resource-based community of Nelson. After his election to the provincial legislature in 1991, Petter was appointed minister of Aboriginal Affairs. In September, 1993, he was made minister of forests.

What do you think are the major issues facing the Forest Service?

"From where I sit right now and from the direction that the premier set when I was appointed, clearly one of the major priorities is the forest practices code initiative. I think there is a strong desire on the part of the public to have in legislation a vehicle to: ensure that sound forest practices are going on; to support the ministry in implementing and enforcing these practices; to validate those companies that are already engaging in sound forest practices; and, to ensure that those that aren't, start doing so.

I think that beyond that there is a general concern about productivity. With a declining allowable annual cut through the timber supply review process, and the potential reductions for a range of other considerations, there is a real need for us to work with industry, with workers, and with communities to try to increase the economic opportunities that exist in the forest base.

Those economic initiatives require us to work cooperatively with other ministries and agencies.

Coming out of some of the recent changes in cabinet there is a clear emphasis on economic issues, employment and skills retraining. Forestry being B.C.'s number one industry, we'll

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Deputy minister's goal will be to improve our image

Gerry Armstrong was appointed deputy minister of forests in September, 1993.

Born in Vancouver, Armstrong grew up in Revelstoke and Rossland. After earning a bachelor's degree in economics at the University of British Columbia, he completed a masters program at Northwestern University in Illinois. Since that time, Armstrong has held senior positions in government both in B.C. and Saskatchewan.

In a recent interview Armstrong spoke of his vision for the Forest Service and his priorities.

What do you want to accomplish in this ministry?

"My goal here is to do everything that I possibly can to re-establish the credibility of the Forest Service in the public mind. When the Forest Service makes decisions or takes actions, it needs to get the benefit of the doubt from the public if that decision is in a grey area. That has not been happening for some considerable period of time. Anything I can do that moves us in the direction of re-establishing the benefit of the doubt for the Forest Service is what I want to do.

Without that public credibility, you're always fighting rear-guard battles. You're never advancing the agenda. You're never able to support what government wants you to do."

Do you see this as being a long-term process?

"Two years, which is a notional planning horizon for the present government, and four years after that, poses some constraints on what you can do. You have to do things in manageable chunks. You have to do things that get you to a point where you can make another decision in two years or six years.

The value-shift that you see out there is far from complete. People are still very concerned about environmental values and very sensitive to any impact on the environment."

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Please distribute to all employees at their work stations

MINISTER - continued from page 1.

be working to keep it so by working closely with those other ministries.

The forest sector strategy that was started by the previous minister provides a forum for us to work with a variety of groups in industry, in labour, and with environmental and First Nations representatives. We're trying to see if we can come up with a strategy to increase the productivity of the forest base and, to some extent, offset some of the losses that may flow from the fact that there will be AAC reductions."

Is public confidence in the Forest Service an issue?

"It's my sense that the public has a high degree of skepticism about forest practices in general. And there may be some people who visit that upon the forest ministry. I see my role as minister as one of carrying the message that the forest ministry is part of the solution not part of the problem.

I think the skepticism is much more directed at the political level and at the industry itself. And I think that part of my role as minister is to assure the public that the forest ministry is there to protect the public resource.

The forest practices code, if it's done right, should give the Forest Service the kind of mandate it needs to reassure the public that it is there to do that job."

Where will the new resources come from to implement and enforce the code?

"I think there is recognition that there must be resources available to make sure the code functions well. Some of these issues relate to policy decisions that will be made under the code, such as determining who will pay for audits.

Some people have told me that the problem is not so much related to staffing as it is to the lack of enforcement powers. But I do know that there is a concern about resources. I can say that sustainable forestry practices has been listed as one of three or four priorities of the government – this should provide some comfort. But obviously these are tight economic times and I can't anticipate the decisions of treasury board."

What would you like to see accomplished in the next two years?

"I would like to see increased confidence among the public that our forest practices are the kind of practices that are truly sustainable and that we have in place the kind of enforcement mechanism that ensures that enforcement takes place.

I would also like to see a greater level of appreciation for the kind of work done by the forest ministry in ensuring that sustainability is being achieved.

I would like to see us have in place a much clearer commitment and strategy as to how we are going to maintain employment and increase productivity in the forest sector.

Through those initiatives we will be in a much better position to reassure our world markets about the future of our resource and address the concerns they may have that we're living up to the highest forestry standards that we possibly can."

Do you see any significant reorganization taking place within the Forest Service?

"I see my role as minister as setting policy direction and leaving the administrative side of things to the deputy. Certainly it isn't one of my political priorities to undertake a reorganization of the ministry. My priority is ensuring the best management of the forest resource.

If we're going to make a major initiative of the forest practices code and if we are going to get some real benefits out of the forest sector strategy, then it was felt that having a greater influence on policy development would be helpful in supporting those two initiatives. Those organizational changes – the addition of an ADM in charge of corporate policy and planning – have already been made."

Is this going to be an interesting time to be in this ministry?

"I'm sure it will. It's a challenging time. Clearly there are some very conflicting views about the forest resource within the many communities in British Columbia.

I believe that a lot of the divisions between those who see the resource in environmental terms and those who see the resource in economic terms are really seeing a false conflict. I think that there is a lot more potential to create consensus around the future of the industry than has yet been achieved.

If we can demonstrate that we are acting in a way that is truly sustainable, we can satisfy both economic and environmental concerns. One of the reasons we're in trouble right now with AAC, for example, is because there wasn't enough attention in the past to issues of sustainability. Those are arguably environmental concerns but, as a province, we're now going to pay the economic price in reduced cuts due to overcutting in the past.

That's one example of how the environment and the economy meld and how the forest ministry, in being good stewards of the resource on behalf of the public, can start to serve in an environment that is hopefully more hospitable than it has been. I see my role as minister as articulating a vision that will bring people together around a common agenda for the future of the resource.

I'm very enthusiastic about working with this ministry. I believe we can demonstrate to the world and to ourselves that we are good stewards of the resource, and that we believe in a sustainable future and that the Forest Service has an important role to play.

I look to ministry staff for ideas and direction and, in return, I hope that I can provide leadership and support for the work we are doing in carrying out these very important agendas."

Forest health committee meets in 100 Mile House

This spring's meeting of the Forest Health Committee of British Columbia was held June 2 – 3 in the 100 Mile House forest district. In attendance were Chief Forester **John Cuthbert**, Silviculture Branch Director **Henry Benskin** and Forest Health Manager **John Muir**.

Participants from other agencies included BCIT Pestologist **Norm Alexander** and UBC Entomology Professor **John MacLean** along with: **Les Safranyik**, research scientist; Forest Insect and Disease Survey (FIDS) Chief **Alan Van Sickle**; and, Cariboo FIDS Ranger **Bob Erickson**, all from Natural Resources Canada.

Forest health issues were formally discussed on Wednesday morning when District Manager **Ray Ostby** welcomed the group to the 100 Mile House forest district. Gypsy moths (Asian and European), white pine blister rust, bark beetles and fishers were all hot topics, but the real exchanges of information (arguments) began when everyone boarded busses for the field trip.

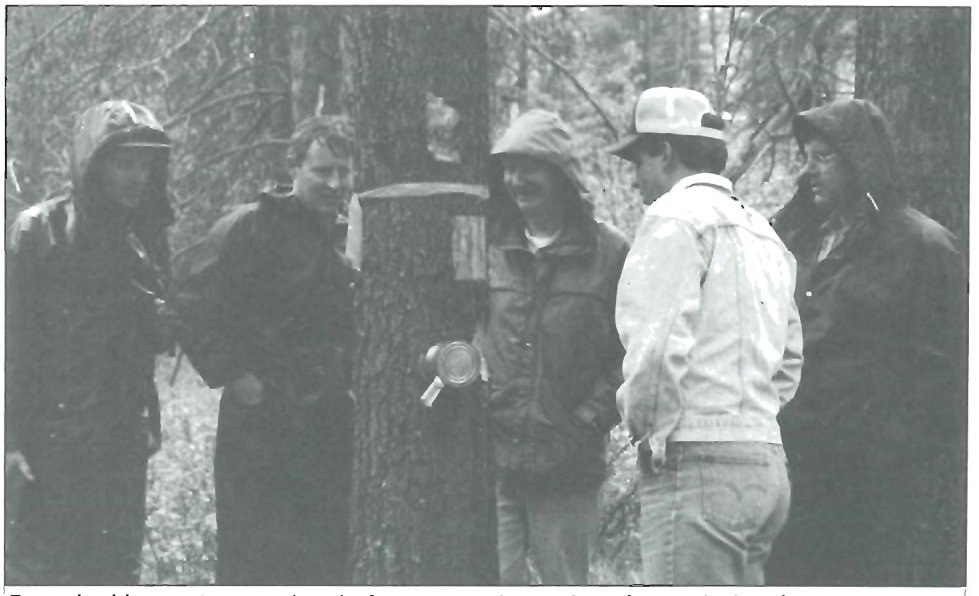
Committee members from the coast saw an example of roadside logging of mountain pine beetle infestations, had a chance to stroke the noses of South Cariboo horse logger **Steve Roy**'s skidders, and listened to Safranyik and Cariboo Region Entomologist **Leo Rankin** talk about an experiment using pine engraver beetles to competitively displace mountain pine beetles. More fat was chewed along with the buffalo at the barbecue that evening.

Day two on the busses saw **Jim van Barneveld** of the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks discuss salt injury along Highway 97. Tundra Helicopters of 108 Mile House provided a demonstration of helicopter disposal of trees infested with mountain pine beetle, using booth Hiller 12ET and MD530F helicopters. After a lunch arranged by the Clinton initial attack crew at beautiful Crater Lake, Cariboo Regional Pathologist **Don Doidge** led the group on his *Armillaria* **Tour of Death** through young and old stands of lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir.

On the last stop of the tour, Williams Lake logger **Dan Goebel** demonstrated his Alaskan mill operation, used to custom cut small lots of Douglas-fir trees infested with bark beetles.

While it's difficult to say whether more problems were resolved or revealed, all parties certainly left better informed about what's going on in forest health, and fired up to make things better. The meeting was one of the best in years thanks to the hard work of Doidge, 100 Mile House Forest Health Officer **Don Wright**, and **Steve Henderson**, Uvic geography co-op student .

Article and photo contributed by
***Mark Hamm**, forest health forester, Cariboo forest region.*



Forest health committee members had an opportunity to take a close-up look at the mountain pine beetle and other critters during a field trip in the 100 Mile House forest district.

The Forest Service newsletter: make it your own!

This is your newsletter. It's your opportunity to tell your fellow workers about events and subjects of interest to people in the B.C. Forest Service.

There are lots of ways to get your story in the Forest Service newsletter. You can send us a note, try your hand at writing an article or, call **Paul Lackhoff** or **Gordon Williams** to arrange for an interview or coverage of an event.

We're particularly interested in expanding the number of items with a regional and district focus. These include: special events; new and retiring staff members; specific information about your region or district; new equipment, training, or procedures you are developing; community involvement or recognition; initiatives involving your community, industry, First Nations; and, publications, reports or projects staff are involved with, etc., etc.

The newsletter is published on the second Monday of every month. In most cases we like to receive material at least two weeks before that to give us time for editing, layout and approvals. Generally, the sooner we get your article the better. If you are putting a major article together, it helps if you let us know by mid-month so we can make space in the next month's newsletter.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact **Paul Lackhoff**, editor (phone: 953-3142, PROFS: PTLACKHO) at Public Affairs Branch in Victoria, or **Gordon Williams** (phone/fax: 380-9959).

DEPUTY - continued from page 1.

How are we going to do it?

"We're going to successfully launch and implement the forest practices code. That's going to contribute in a very important way to re-establishing that sense of mission.

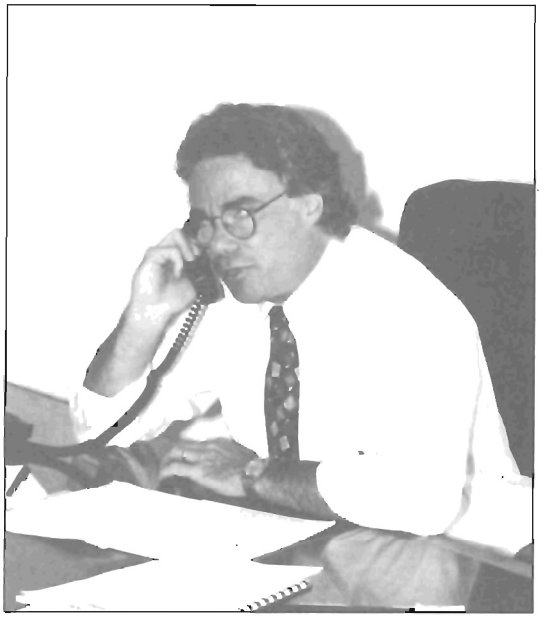
We're also going to have to deal with a variety of issues that arise out of the transition the industry is going through right now. This includes the changes in social values that confront everybody in the Forest Service as they go about doing their work – we've simply got to find ways of addressing those."

How does adding an assistant deputy minister in charge of policy and planning fit with the direction you see the Forest Service taking?

"We need more capacity than I can personally provide on providing policy advice to the government in the forest sector and providing some strategic thinking in terms of what the priorities ought to be and how these various components link together.

Also, we need to pay more attention to corporate planning and building on the work that has already been done. I would like to make it more explicit and bring it forward a little bit.

Don Wright has some real strengths in both policy and planning. He's an economist, and he has a lot of experience in the trade area from his days in Saskatchewan. Countervail has important connections to our international marketing and to potential for stumpage – both of which lead back into a long term strategy for working our way through the transition that the industry is in and ensuring that the communities that depend on forestry are included."



*Deputy Minister **Gerry Armstrong**: "You have to do things in manageable chunks."*

Can you expand on the rationale for taking the integrated resources management branch out of the chief forester's office?

"There are a couple of reasons. First, the forest practices code is a major policy thrust right now. IRM is the part of the organization that's pulling the forest practices code together.

The second reason is that policy doesn't work if it is strictly on a planning and theoretical level. You also have to have people in a policy shop who understand what it is to implement a policy and can influence a policy on the basis of its implementability."

Does implementation of the forest practices code mean a bigger role for monitoring and enforcement for the Forest Service?

"It has to be thought through how we do that because there are a variety of options. You can request government to provide more people and money, the response to that isn't likely to be strongly positive.

Or, you can look at a more regulatory and auditing approach. Whatever we do, the enforcement and monitoring has got to be out there on the ground at the district level, that's going to require some greater degree of resources at the district level."

What is the time-line for implementing the forest practices code?

"What the process involves right now is releasing the discussion paper, probably in early November. That will provide the opportunity for public feedback and fine tuning. But the discussion paper process isn't going to be a big process where we're considering overall issues. It will point to specific issues that we can act on.

While that's going on, there is also an implementation team that is hard at work. As we're fine tuning the legislation on the basis of the comments that come back from the discussion paper we're already working on the implementation.

If we get legislation this spring, it's only a short time to writing the regulations. At that point we will need to be prepared to implement very quickly."

Will you be going out to the districts soon?

"I've been trying to get out to the districts. That's important to me because I really need to get to know the people. I need to know the regional managers and the district managers and put faces to names.

It's also the best way I know of getting a really quick understanding of what the region and district specific issues are. When you start hearing the same thing from several regions, that gives you a pretty good idea of what the province-wide issues are.

I want to get out and talk to people. If people want to see me, the easiest way to do that will be when I'm out knocking on doors in the regions and districts. People can also send me a PROFS – I promise to read them. I'll be available. I want to hear from people."

How do you feel about being deputy minister in this ministry?

"This is an opportunity that I'm very pleased to have. I have no illusions that it's not going to be a major challenge. This is a big ministry, one of the most important ministries in government. The issues are of critical importance to the province.

From the point of view of a professional public servant, you couldn't ask for a time when there was more going on than there is here."

Russians study B.C. fire suppression techniques

On August 4, 1993, three Russian forest fire experts arrived in Victoria for a five-day review of British Columbia's fire management program. The tour was jointly hosted by the U.S. Forest Service and Canadian fire agencies.

The Russians examined all aspects of fire management and fire suppression, visiting the Fire Control Room in Victoria, the Abbotsford warehouse, the Rapattack base in Salmon Arm, the Merritt interpretive centre, and the Penticton air tanker base.

With the increasing global awareness of the importance of forests, many countries have approached the Forest Service requesting fire suppression expertise, fire fighters, equipment and technology. The B.C. Forest Service is recognized as a world leader in forest fire suppression. Our tactics and expertise appeal to many countries because they have been developed and proven over a wide range of situations.

Russia has been fighting wildfires since the time of the Czars. Smoke jumpers and rappellers are used extensively and air support came into use in Russia in 1931. Ninety percent of their fires are caused by people and ten percent are caused by lightning.

The area protected is approximately 735 million hectares and over 10,000 fire fighters are hired each fire season to protect this vast area.

After touring B.C. the Russians were scheduled to visit Alberta and the United States.

*Article and photo contributed by **Sylvia Pang**, manager, communications, protection branch.*

*From left to right: **Nikolai Kovalyov**, chief, Krasnoyarsk Forest Fire Airbase; **Vladimir Schtetinsky**, deputy director general, National Aerial Forest Fire Centre; **Andrei Rykoff**, interpreter, U.S. Forest Service; **Victor Serglenko**, chief, department of forest protection, Federal Forest Service of Russia; **Jim Price**, fire management specialist, protection branch.*

November 15 is the deadline for protection scholarship fund applications

Applications are now being accepted for the Protection Scholarship Fund.

The fund provides a subsidy of up to $5,000 to research, develop or investigate a protection initiative. The scholarship is awarded on an annual basis to any full-time or seasonal Forest Service employee.

Original projects that advance fire or aviation management will be considered. Possible projects include: fire litigation, infra-red scanning, air tanker design, product testing, new training modules, new technology, and new policy directions.

Scholarship candidates must submit an initial two-page summary outlining the scope and content of their project. The summary/outline must include background, project description, benefits and project costs.

Based on submissions, a scholarship committee will select ten finalists. Finalists will be asked to submit a more detailed proposal. The assistant deputy minister, operations, will award the scholarship based on committee recommendations.

The deadline for applications is November 15, 1993. Please send your submissions to: Protection Scholarship Committee, 2nd floor, 31 Bastion Square, Victoria B.C. V8W 3E7.

For details contact your protection officer.

Silvicultural Institute of B.C. professional module program application deadline

Just a reminder to interested applicants that the annual deadline for application to SIBC's Professional Module Program is November 1, 1993.

The next Module I is scheduled for January 24 to February 4, 1994 at the Green Timbers Training Centre in Surrey.

For information and application forms, please contact **Candace Laird**, executive director, SIBC, room 270 - 2357 Main Mall, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z4, phone: 224-7800, fax: 822-3106.

After 32 years of service, Jack Biickert is retiring

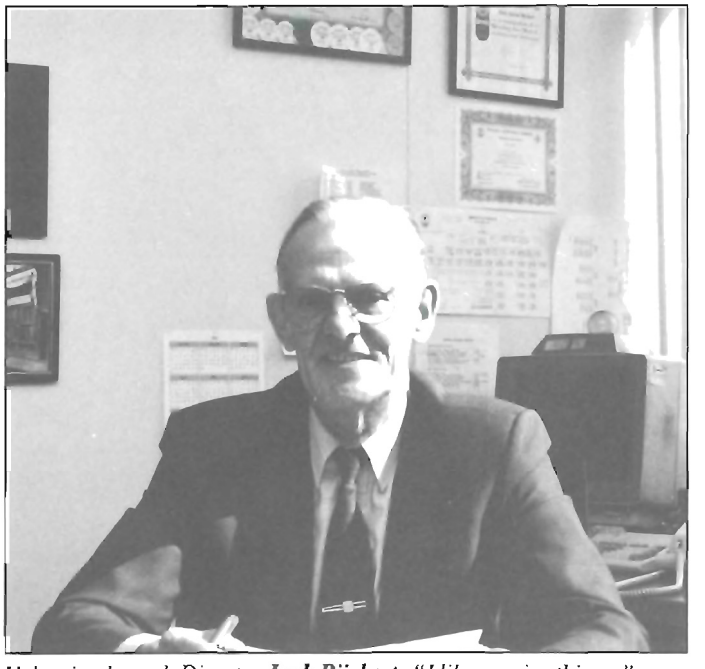
Jack Biickert *is an advertisement for career change. Usually described as a blur, he has made major contributions to the Forest Service over the past 32 years. Jack has announced his retirement effective December 10, 1993. Before he goes, we take a look back over his career and his many accomplishments.*

After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of British Columbia, Biickert joined the Forest Service in May, 1962. His first assignment was in the forest surveys and inventory branch where he held the positions of regeneration survey party chief, air classifier and assistant party chief.

Biickert then became one of the few people who transferred twice to Prince Rupert.

Prior to leaving Prince Rupert the first time in 1968, one of Biickert's major projects as a management forester was to develop the first Regional Protection Fire/Weather Indices "War Room."

"**Mickey Pogue**, the district forester in Prince Rupert foresaw the need to utilize fire/weather indices and to track them as they built within the region," Biickert says. "We took the federal fire/weather indices system and modified it slightly to suit Prince Rupert region. We then, of course, had to get some weather readings. We utilized the Vancouver airport meteorological information as well as information from the Prince Rupert airport on Digby Island."



*Valuation branch Director **Jack Biickert**: "I like precise things."*

"Along with the weather readings taken at our ranger stations, I also went into contract with a number of companies and private individuals to take fire/weather readings and radio them in to Prince Rupert. I had a trained technician who took those readings and did the calculations manually on the fire and fine-fuel hazard ratings. The information went to the regional protection section and with that, decisions were made whether it might be important to move some personnel and equipment around in order to get a jump on forest fires."

During his career, Biickert has seen many technological changes, including the introduction of computers.

In 1966, leading the headlong flight to modern technology, the Forest Service acquired an IBM 1440 with 8K of core memory, and installed it in the regional headquarters in Vancouver. Biickert was to become one of the Forest Service's original systems analysts.

Biickert designed, wrote, programmed and trained staff on the Interior End-Product Stumpage Appraisal System and the Weight Scale Sampling Intensity System. Based in the research branch, Biickert and other programmer/analysts developed applications that became the original foundation of the current revenue administration system.

He could see that there was good potential to be absorbed by the fledgling British Columbia Systems Corporation as a programmer/analyst. Feeling that he was really a forester by training and vocation, Biickert decided shift to timber administration. In 1975, he returned to Prince Rupert for the second time as forester-in-charge, timber management, at the Prince Rupert regional headquarters.

In 1976, Biickert was promoted to assistant district forester in Prince Rupert (the youngest ADF in those days). In 1978 he was promoted to regional manager. One of his biggest challenges was to relocate 125 staff positions to Smithers. This was the first time a regional office had ever been moved. The lessons learned in that exercise have earned Biickert the unofficial title of sage advisor to the executive in the move of the Vancouver regional office planned for the fall of 1994.

Probably the darkest time in Biickert's career came in 1983. With the mandate of reducing staffing levels by 30 per cent, he was seconded by the executive to develop scenarios to be ruled on by the downsizing committee that reported directly to the premier. This is a period Biickert finds difficult to recall without a certain trace of bitterness, saying "downsizing was the most unsavoury job I did. It was not easy to be a part of removing positions from the Forest Service."

In 1984 Biickert became director of the strategic studies branch. In October of 1988 be was appointed as assistant chief forester and director of integrated resources branch. This was one of the busiest and most challenging periods for Biickert. He was responsible for running three former branches – recreation, range, and integrated resource management planning.

Shortly before leaving the integrated resources branch, Biickert was involved in the beginning of the forest practices code process. "It all started," Biickert says, "at an executive meeting where **Wes Cheston**, the assistant deputy minister, operations, suggested that the one thing we didn't have as we travelled around talking to other agencies and other countries, was a forest practices code. He suggested we start translating

our current guidelines and rules into a forest practices code document."

Biickert took on the tasks of overseeing the gathering and compilation of international information, and drafting of the first reports and public discussion papers.

In June 1991, Biickert was again transferred, this time to the valuation branch, which he says he has enjoyed immensely because of its direct interaction with regional and district staff in delivery of the program. In his two years with valuation branch, Biickert has worked to make improvements in administration and correct inequities.

Summing up his varied career, Biickert says "the forest service is an interesting employer. Because we are so complex, have so many programs and are really responsible for so many activities and sub-activities and functions, there is a diversity of career opportunities available. I've moved along as things changed and evolved and improved. I saw an interest in the computer side of things – it interested me because I like precise things. Then I wanted to get back into forest management – into timber administration. Later, after I came back to Victoria the third time, I was requested to take on the strategic studies branch."

"If I was a young person entering the forest service today, I would really like to start at the district level and work through the district to region to branch. Early in my career, it was always hard to get out and find out what was happening on the ground and to relate to the real on-the-ground issues that confront our front-line staff."

Biickert sees many changes coming for the Forest Service – greater specialization, greater accountability and a total commitment to conservation of resources – including a paperless office. He also thinks that the Forest Service needs to keep a perspective on its role in the economy, saying, "I think that down the road this ministry is going to have to be reminded that revenue is not a by-product of harvesting."

"We're the third largest direct revenue stream behind sales tax and federal transfers. Indirectly, we build a lot of hospitals and a lot of schools and provide a lot of dollars for services to residents of British Columbia. We should never overlook the fact that revenue is important and revenue administration is important."

Biickert is casual about his many accomplishments and challenges, giving credit where credit is due. Having earned a reputation as always running flat out, his attitude to retirement reveals his secret to getting things done.

"I'm not going to try to believe that I am scheduling retirement," Biickert says, "I think it's a mistake to retire on Friday and immediately pack up the house to move to that other retirement location that you've been looking forward to all your life. That's too sudden, you do things in steps. I have a lot of outside interests and a lot of things I want to do. I have a retirement home at French Creek that I will occupy within a year or two – there's no panic."

Carrs Landing/Juniper Cove simulation tests emergency response

August 28, 1993 dawned cool and damp in the sunny Okanagan. Nevertheless the fire had to go ahead as scheduled. One hundred people from numerous emergency response agencies and 50 local residents were ready to play their part.

The exercise began at 08:30 with a briefing at the Carrs Landing fire hall. The scene was set for the agencies involved.

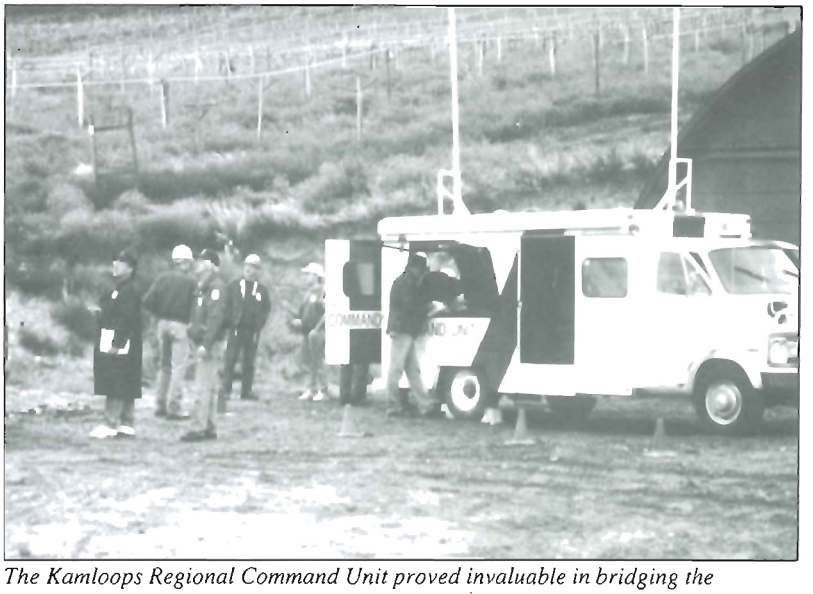
When the 911 call went in at 10:00, the Carrs Landing Fire Department was first to respond. Crews found that a wildfire was spreading rapidly south along the shore of Okanagan Lake and was threatening homes in the forested community of Juniper Cove. Deputy Fire Chief **Steve Wallis** requested air tankers and additional support from the Vernon forest district.

The fire raged through the community despite fire-fighters' best efforts. Key players were brought together in the Kamloops Regional Command Unit – a specially equipped communications vehicle. The unit proved invaluable in bridging the communications gap among the numerous agencies involved.

Vernon forest district staff would like to thank the eight fire departments present and the RCMP for their efficient evacuation of the 50 residents. Emergency health services at Winfield supported the exercise with their quick response to attend victims of a simulated vehicle accident and a mock in-home accident. Also deserving praise are the volunteer members of the Provincial Emergency Program and the efforts of the Red Cross in registering evacuees.

District personnel were very pleased with the response from the community of Juniper Cove. Not only did the residents invite us in to conduct the simulation, every individual in the area took time out from their Saturday to be evacuated as part of the event.

*Contributed by **Jeff Moore**, fire prevention technician, Vernon forest district.*



The Kamloops Regional Command Unit proved invaluable in bridging the communications gap among the numerous agencies involved in the simulation.

Cariboo's 21st annual tournament...

With the elements cooperating, more or less, just over 100 golfers took to the links at the Williams Lake golf course September 11 – 12 during the 21st annual Cariboo forest region golf tournament.

The course was in great shape and easily weathered a bit of a wind/rain/hail storm on Saturday afternoon. Sunday, on the other hand, was perfect golfing weather – sunny and warm – for everyone to demonstrate their skill, or lack thereof. Forest Service staff, retirees and spouses, industry representatives and friends from far and wide came to the annual event.

Leading the pack this year was **Brian McNaughton**, Williams Lake forest district manager, with the low overall gross of 151. McNaughton had a shaky start on Saturday, shooting a 77, but he turned it around Sunday with a three-over-par 74 to pick up the Wood Hamblin trophy.

*And the winners are: (from left to right) **Gary Ward**, **Kathy Johnston**, **Norm Rogers**, **Anita Pendergast**, and **Brian McNaughton**.*

Beaming from ear-to-ear and ignoring cries for a recount, McNaughton called his own name as the men's low gross winner and then reminded everyone that he, unsupervised, collated the scoring.

On the ladies' side, Kamloops' **Kathy Johnston** took the Chemonics plaque for the low overall gross of 174. Johnston's 86 and 88 had a lot of the men thinking about their score and a return to the basics – "head down, eye on the ball, don't kill it."

***Mike Carlson**, left, sadly presents **Larry Pedersen** with the much coveted Cariboo forest region's art treasure. Pedersen was awarded the masterpiece in recognition of his outstanding performance as most improved regional staff manager. Choking back emotion, Pedersen said, "I can't believe it's finally mine."*

Rounding out the low gross awards was retiree **Gary Ward** from Kamloops. He collected the Cariboo Spur trophy with 90 and 87 for a two-round total of 177.

On the net side, Prince George's **Anita Pendergast** picked up the ladies overall low net with a total of 155. Pendergast received the Conair plaque for her fine effort.

Norm Rogers, from Mackenzie, led all the way and took the men's overall low net with a sterling 132. His labours to capture the Northern Mountain Helicopters trophy was all the more notable given his equally impressive Saturday night performance.

In the regional team shootout for the Fireflex plaque, this year's winner was Prince Rupert forest region's team of **Jim Snetsinger**, **Gerry Pinkerton** and **Terry Walker**. The team charged to victory inspired by the coaching and golfing expertise of Regional Manager **Larry Pedersen**.

Actually, the Rupert team tied with Prince George region but won by retrogression. Rounding out the regional team competition was: Cariboo third, Nelson in fourth, Kamloops fifth and Vancouver sixth. Headquarters was disqualified because it couldn't field enough duffers this year.

In the low gross first flight, Chilliwack forest district's **Steve Doubinin** took honours with 154, while **Ken Shaw** of Kamloops forest region was the low net winner with 140.

In the second flight, low gross, Surrey Nursery's **Tony Willington** edged **Earl Hunt**, from Revelstoke forest district, by two – 169 to 171. **Noel Fisher** from Grand Forks placed third with 174.

Guy Newsome took second flight, low net with 138. **Tracy Cooper**, Ministry of Transportation and Highways, eked out second with 145 over retiree **Vince Hernandez's** 146.

...a smashing success!

*The tournament organizing committee, from left to right: **Al Randall, Christine Kennedy, Brian McNaughton, Brian Bentley, Guy Newsome, Mike Carlson** and **Hugh Freeman**.*

Gerry Pinkerton from Prince Rupert forest district showed the way in the third flight, low gross, with 177. He was followed by **Aaron Snively**, Mackenzie forest district, with 185 while retiree **Walter Johnston** placed third with 187.

Low net, third flight, was taken by Fireflex's **Stan Carter** with 135. In the tight race for second, retiree **Larry Coles** edged **Glen Hill**, Salmon Arm forest district, 143 to 144.

The fourth flight, low gross, went to Chilcotin forest district's **Graham Seefeldt** with 193. Seefeldt also nearly won shortest drive for his effort on the first hole on Sunday, but the prize had been claimed Saturday night.

However, his golfing partners thought he should get honourable mention for a stunning topper almost to the ladies tee followed by a ballet-like pirouette. Obviously inspired, he went on to perform a brief interpretive dance at each tee and then shot the game of his life – laughing and apologizing while dropping 20-foot puts.

Perhaps dumbstruck by Seefeldt's performance, Cariboo forest region Manager **Mike Carlson** could only manage a 195 for second. Taking third was **Ron Bradley**, with Chemonics.

Bruce Noble, Kamloops forest region, took fourth flight low net with a solid 140. Providing these scores to the newsletter was **Hugh Freeman**, Cariboo forest region, who also placed second, followed by **Terry Walker**, Prince Rupert forest region. Since Freeman forgot to include his and Walker's score, we only have his word that he finished second.

In the hotly contested Toppers division, **Brian Kempf**, Mackenzie forest district, took first with a 201. **Ray Leduc**, Cariboo forest region and **Paul Lackhoff**, public affairs branch, tied for second but Leduc got the nod through retrogression.

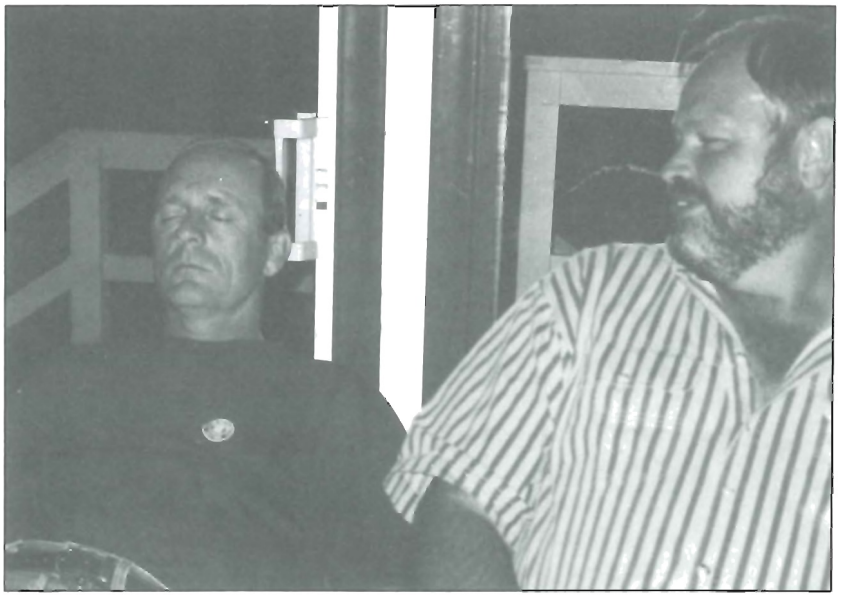
Prince Rupert forest region manager **Larry Pedersen** placed fourth, followed by **Roy Benson**, Vernon forest district, and **Doug Flintoft**, Quesnel forest district manager.

Keith Bradley, Chemonics, won the nine-holer category, with **Evelyn Hernandez** placing second.

Selected hole prizes were: long drive, ladies, **Rachelle Satrom**, Williams Lake; high score, male, **Gord Darnbrough**, Conair; shortest drive, male, **Fred Baxter**, Kamloops forest regional manager; closest after two, ladies, **Anita Pendergast**, Prince George; closest after two, male, **Earl Hunt**, Nelson forest region; long drive, male, **Steve Doubinin**, Vancouver forest region; closest to the pin, **Ray Shultz**, Prince Rupert forest region; and, most balls in pond, **Stan Lowrey**, Kamloops forest region. The prize for most duffs was unclaimed.

All in all it was a very successful event with all the participants having a great time. McNaughton said the course can accommodate about 136 golfers at the event so put it on your calendar for next September.

*Article and photos contributed by **Paul Lackhoff**, public information officer, public affairs branch.*



*He keeps going and going and ... Obviously not all regional managers are powered by the Energizer. **Fred Baxter** cools it Saturday night after a tough round of golf while **Mike Carlson** contemplates the situation. Photo thoughtfully provided by **Hugh Freeman**.*

Forest inventory: do we know enough about our forests?

*Inventory Branch Director **Dave Gilbert** answers some commonly-asked questions about our forest inventory system in B.C. and how well it serves us.*

The inventory we have now is one of the best in the world. Yet we always hear criticism that we can't plan for timber harvesting in B.C. without an adequate inventory. Has that been done?

"Despite its limitations, B.C.'s timber inventory is highly regarded by foresters around the world. In many ways our situation is unique. Our province is enormous with a wide range of biogeoclimatic zones and limited access to many areas. So we pioneered the use of satellite images and aerial photos in a very cost-effective program.

Forest inventories aren't actual counts. Because of the vast areas involved they are statistical estimates based on photo and image interpretations and measurements of sample sites.

To a large extent, though, our forest inventories rely heavily on field data collected since the 1960s. All this information, new and old, is stored on a computer mapping system where growth and yield modelling can be used to estimate increases. Data on insect damage, disease, fire loss and harvesting is also factored in. This process tells us what the inventory of standing timber should look like now – this composite of information is what we report annually."

Are these inventories adequate for today's resource management needs?

"Most foresters, myself included, feel they are not, for two important reasons. The inventory sampling process was designed back in the 1960s to predict volume of the standing timber crop over large sampling areas. So the inventories are reasonably accurate only for timber supply areas and other large tracts. To predict for smaller areas we need extra data and to alter our methods.

The second problem is that we lack sufficient inventory information on other resources such as fish and wildlife habitat, heritage sites, biodiversity, and tourism potential. These are crucial elements for land use planning and for resource management at the very detailed level.

The issues today revolve very much around ensuring fish spawning sites and crucial winter wildlife habitat are safeguarded and preserving a wilderness spirit – in those values our information is very deficient. Also, it is difficult technically and statistically to include available data in analyses about timber inventory.

Fortunately, we are making good progress on a two-part solution. Through a multi-agency, multidisciplinary process called RIC (Resources Inventory Committee), we are redesigning our forest inventory process to accommodate other (non-timber) resource values and include better statistical accuracy for smaller-area predictions. At the same time, funding for increased data collection and infrastructure is coming from the provincial Corporate Resources Inventory Initiative (CRII)."

How will these initiatives impact on forest inventory?

"Because of past funding priorities, there is a significant lack of data on non-timber values. That situation will soon change.

The RIC is redesigning all government inventories – setting common standards and methodologies to ensure compatibility. This technical initiative involves more than 100 specialists representing all resource disciplines. They have been drawn from provincial, federal and First Nations agencies as well as industry, academia and other interest groups. It is the most comprehensive redesign in the world – quite exciting for the scientists involved. And exactly what B.C. needs.

The new vegetation (timber) inventory component was pilot-tested this summer near Jordan River and Williams Lake. In 1994, we will be testing the integration of all forest values. Province-wide adoption of all the new inventories is planned for 1995."

If a good inventory existed, wouldn't it be easy to determine the Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) based on an 80 to 100 year rotation of the timber resource?

"The AAC is based on consideration of many factors – including timber inventory data. Social and economic issues also have to be examined.

In determining the AAC, the chief forester has to consider the timber inventory on the land base that will be available for harvesting and the standard of management applied on that land base. This includes consideration to protect values other than timber as well as silviculture and protection standards.

Soon land use allocation strategies for Vancouver Island, the Kootenays and the Cariboo Chilcotin regions will be recommended by the Commission on Resources and Environment's (C.O.R.E.) three regional tables. These will impact as well on the AAC."

Is the government planning to devote more resources to achieving and maintaining an adequate inventory?

"CRII is now in its second year. Non-timber resource inventories are especially dependant on CRII funding as they begin to rebuild after years of chronic underfunding.

More than $6.3 million has been committed this year ($9 million last year) to projects in seven ministries. CRII's priorities are directly linked to meeting the information needs of the C.O.R.E. regional tables."

Will better inventories solve problems?

"No, not in themselves. But better inventories will help us focus debate."

*Contributed by **Bruce Batchelor**. Originally published in the Forest Alliance of B.C. newsletter.*

Executive members tour districts in the "far north"

Former Deputy Minister **Philip Halkett**, Assistant Deputy Minister **Wes Cheston**, and Deputy Chief Forester **Bronwen Beedle** got a first-hand look at issues in large forest districts during a tour of the Fort Nelson and Mackenzie districts July 20 – 23. With both districts being as large as Vancouver Island, the tour had to cover a lot of ground (and sometimes water) in a short period of time.

For **Bob Reid**, Fort Nelson district manager, the tour was an opportunity for staff to meet and discuss issues with members of the executive.

"We have an energetic group of people here," Reid says. "They were eager to talk about the kind of issues they are working with. All the staff had input on what we would be looking at. We wanted to make the trip a memorable one."

With limited summer road access, routine travel in this district is often by helicopter and fixed wing aircraft so arranging a whirlwind tour didn't present any problems. "This is the kind of thing people here do as part of their everyday work," Reid says.

District staff treated the visit as something of an occasion and arranged an informal social event for the evening.

The remainder of the tour focused on the Mackenzie district. While much more accessible by road, the district has many similar challenges for Forest Service staff. "We especially wanted to give the deputy minister an opportunity to look at some of our staffing issues," Mackenzie forest district Manager **Rod DeBoice** said. "This district covers six million hectares, and we have 11,000 kilometres of roads with an engineering staff of two. That's like having two people to look after the entire Trans-Canada Highway! We also wanted to show them as much of the district as we could in a short period of time."

One of the highlights of the northern tour was a 35-mile boat trip up the Finlay River to visit historical aboriginal communities and view some of the results of recent harvesting techniques for addressing visual quality and native concerns. Shown left to right are: ***Bronwen Beedle****, deputy chief forester,* ***Wes Cheston****, assistant deputy minister, operations,* ***Steve McMullan****, Fletcher-Challenge, and,* ***Philip Halkett****, former deputy minister.*

Halkett says staff in both districts deserve congratulations for the quality of the tour and says he would like to be able to spend more time meeting with district staff.

"Two elements stand out for me," Halkett says, "the territory that you see from the air – the striking landscapes and the wildlife. The second is that when you meet with people directly it doesn't take long for the barriers to go down and you can have a very productive exchange of ideas and information. Overall I had the impression that we have a very capable group of people here."

While in Mackenzie, Halkett presented the town with a vintage Adams tilt-wheel pull-grader which will become a showpiece for the local museum. The grader, which was acquired by the Ministry of Highways in the 1950s, had been used extensively for fire access road construction and was at one time used to maintain the airstrip at the Ingenika air tanker base.

Oregon conference will feature special forest products

The Business and Science of Special Forest Products: A Conference and Exposition, is scheduled for January 26 – 27, 1994 at the Washington County FairPlex in Hillsboro, Oregon.

The Pacific Northwest has long been known as the one of the best places in the world to grow and harvest trees. But an increasing segment of the forest's non-timber resources are being harvested and managed as special forest products.

Berries, mushrooms, ferns, floral greens, plants and trees that produce pharmaceutical chemicals grow in western U.S. and Canadian forests. This conference will help business owners, and public and private forest land managers identify the size of the special forest products industry, learn how it operates, locate information sources, ensure the best science is being applied to land management and locate new market sources.

Registration and program information is available from: **Christy Dorsey**, Western Forestry and Conservation Association, 4033 SW Canyon Road, Portland OR 97221, phone/fax: (503) 226-4562.

Watershed plan reflects public concern and participation

A draft plan is now complete for the Italy-Sutherland watershed, a 9,000 hectare parcel in the Boundary forest district.

The watershed is located next to Christina Lake, a prime recreation area. Sutherland Creek supplies drinking water to a number of residents in both Christina Lake and Fife.

Prior to 1980, harvesting practices in the area (even though they were acceptable by the standards of the day) contributed to water quality problems.

Responding to public concerns, the Forest Service decided to delay further harvesting in 1983 until a resource plan was completed. Over the years this has evolved from a harvesting plan into a watershed management plan that considers the importance of the entire watershed ecology. As the focus of the plan shifted to include non-timber values, there was a need for more structured public participation.

In 1990, a planning team that included members of the public was formed. The Forest Service was the lead agency, coordinating the development and implementation of the plan. Other participants included representatives from: the Christina Lake Watershed Alliance; the Sutherland Creek Water Works District; the Kootenay Boundary Regional District; Pope and Talbot Ltd.; the Fife Water Users Community; and, the water management branch of the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks.

The committee met on a monthly basis and went on a number of field trips to look at specific issues.

The final draft plan was the subject of an open house in February that attracted more than 60 people. As the plan was being finalized in May, a landslide on Sutherland Creek gave the process a boost by providing an opportunity to identify and remedy some weaknesses in the plan which might not have been picked up otherwise.

Frank Wilmer, resource officer, planning, Boundary forest district, chaired the committee and is pleased with the outcome. Wilmer admits that this process took longer than expected but considers the efforts well worth the result. "This [plan] affirms my belief that these processes can work," Wilmer says.

Work continues on the plan even though harvesting is not expected until at least 1996. Forest health and recreation plans are being developed as part of the master plan. Slope stability mapping will also be undertaken prior to harvesting.

As Wilmer says, "although this is a final plan we look at it as the beginning rather than the end of the process. The real work begins as we start to implement it."

B.C. delegates attend commonwealth forestry conference

The 14th Commonwealth Forestry Conference, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, September 13 - 18, brought together more than 300 experts to discuss international forestry issues. Two papers presented by B.C. Forest Service staff were of particular interest.

Robin Brown, manager, regeneration programs, silviculture branch, confesses to a certain amount of frustration with the lack of public understanding about how many trees are actually being planted in British Columbia.

Brown's paper, ***Regeneration Success in British Columbia's Forests***, emphasizes the importance of forestry to the B.C. economy and the legal requirements for regeneration of harvested areas.

Drawing from annual report data and more than 20 years experience with the Forest Service, Brown has produced a concise paper that documents trends in forest regeneration over the past decade and discusses planting backlogs and effects of harvesting practices previous to that time.

Brown's work was presented as a voluntary paper to a session on sustainable management.

Forest Sciences Officer **Jim Pojar**, Prince Rupert forest region, and Ecologist **Evelyn Hamilton**, research branch, presented a case study on efforts to maintain biological diversity in coastal British Columbia.

Pojar and Hamilton presented their paper during a session on biodiversity and environmental management.

Pojar hopes to make participants better acquainted with our coastal temperate forests and with some of the distinctive features and issues that occur here. The paper documents both successes and failures so that others can draw on our experience.

Both Pojar and Brown would like to see wider distribution of their work for the conference. Citing an increasingly knowledgeable public, Brown feels that it is important to be providing more detailed information for general consumption.

Prior to his departure for the conference, Pojar said this would be an excellent opportunity for scientific exchange. He was also looking forward to visiting a very different ecosystem than the one he is accustomed to.

Also representing the Forest Service at the conference were: **Wes Cheston**, assistant deputy minister, operations; **Bronwen Beedle**, deputy chief forester; **Ken Collingwood**, regional manager, Prince George forest region; **Al Gorley**, district manager, Morice forest district; **Gerry Still**, manager of forest research, research branch; and, **Jim Langridge**, tree farm license forester, timber harvesting branch.

Forest vessel owners preserve a piece of history

Boats have played a vital role in the Forest Service since its creation in 1911. At that time three launches, the *Alanbee*, the *Kiora*, and the *R.J. Skinner* patrolled the south coast and Vancouver Island examining hand-loggers' licences and enforcing the *Timbermark Act*. Along the vast, roadless coast, ranger boats were multi-purpose vessels, often serving as both transportation and housing for inventory and fire protection crews. The boats were also part of the supply and communications network for land-based ranger stations.

Later the fleet expanded to include vessels ranging from the practical 36-foot *Eva R*, (built in 1913 for the Forest Service by Hinton Electric in Victoria) to a 70-foot ocean-going yacht, *Syrene*, which was built in 1921 on the Thames River in England for a Greek millionaire.

Eventually the Forest Service established its own boat works at Thurston Bay on Sonora Island. In 1941 the Forest Service Marine Depot (FSMD) was built on the Fraser River. The depot not only built boats, it also produced pumps, hose fittings and tools for fire protection.

In the 1960s, improved road access on the coast and increased use of aircraft resulted in a reduced role for boats. Many of the aging wooden vessels were sold off and the marine depot diversified its activities. Yet the old boats have not disappeared.

Norm Wright and **Joan Hendricksen** have lived and worked on the water for more than 30 years. In 1986, Wright purchased *Nesika*, a vessel which had been with the Forest Service from 1937 until 1974. "This wasn't just a boat," Wright says, "it was part of history. A part that was fast disappearing." Over the next several years Wright, with the help of many Forest Service personnel and other boat owners, located a number of the old wooden boats as well as their former crew members.

In 1990, Wright met **Michael Coney** author of *Forest Ranger, Ahoy!*, a book documenting the history of the Forest Service marine contingent. During four years of research Coney collected photographs, stories and memorabilia. He also established a wide range of contacts within the Forest Service. "After that," Wright says, "things just naturally seemed to come together. Right now we know the whereabouts of about 30 of the old boats. Quite a few of those have been rebuilt so you would hardly recognize them, with new cabins on the original hulls. Those boats were built to last and the Forest Service had one of the best maintenance programs."

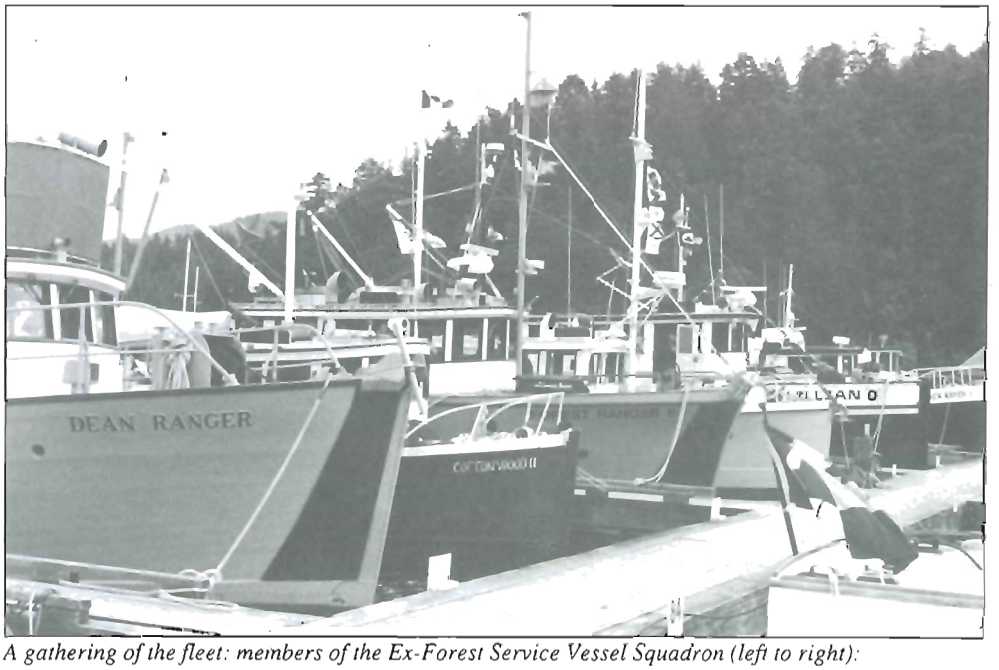
In 1992, a voluntary organization – the Ex-Forest Service Vessel Squadron – was formed with the motto "history, not varnish." Its purpose is to preserve a unique period of coastal history. Several boats are still in commercial use along the coast. Many owners have tried to restore and maintain the original condition of the boats, including their distinctive colour scheme.

The first gathering, at Pender Harbour, attracted 14 of the vessels along with many past and present members of the Forest Service.

This year the reunion was held at Maple Bay and drew 20 boats (including *Eva R*, *Syrene* and the *Oliver Clark II*). Visitors brought fond memories: A new bride whose husband had been the ranger on board the 'blimp' *Cottonwood II* in 1952, and a crew member who had photographed the grounding of the *Hecate Ranger* in July 1979. Others filled in historical gaps on crews, vessel purchases, refits and sales. Also hot topics for discussion were recent 'finds' – discoveries of original drawings from FSMD and sightings of possible new members for the squadron.

The current goal of the squadron is to create a permanent collection in the Vancouver Maritime Museum. The intent is for information and artifacts to remain accessible. There is also a need to resolve questions of ownership of items such as log books and personnel records. The museum will register and catalogue all the material loaned to the collection. Two former Forest Service employees – **Ken Morley**, retired ranger supervisor; and **Tommy Edwards**, former superintendent of FSMD – have been appointed as trustees.

*If you would like more information about the Ex-Forest Service Vessel Squadron, please contact: **Norman Wright**, Nesika, Box 2490, Sidney B.C. V8L 3Z4, 655-1913.*



*A gathering of the fleet: members of the Ex-Forest Service Vessel Squadron (left to right): **Dean Ranger**, **Cottonwood II**, **Forest Ranger II**, **Nesika**, **Lillian D**, and **Black Raven II** - a former fisheries vessel.*

New technology helps teach us about our forests

In April 1991, the System of Experts for Intelligent Data Management (SEIDAM) became one of 22 proposals selected by NASA's Applied Information Systems Research project (AISR). AISR develops and tests information and monitoring systems for a wide variety of applications. Several of the projects are studying rainforest ecology.

The SEIDAM project used state-of-the art remote sensing equipment to examine three areas of British Columbia – the Victoria watershed area, Tofino Creek on Vancouver Island, and Parsons in the Invermere area. The areas were chosen because they represent a cross-section of climate conditions and landforms and have already been the subject of intensive study.

The goal of SEIDAM is to develop a system that will not only integrate remote sensing data with geographic information systems but will also manage the massive amounts of information being generated.

The project is being led by Natural Resources Canada as part of the Advanced Forest Technology Program, and could have far-reaching implications for the B.C. Forest Service.

In managing forest resources, we gather information about how fast the forests are growing, and what current timber volumes are. We also need ways to determine the extent of destructive insects and diseases in the forest. SEIDAM may eventally offer more effective ways to measure these elements.

In the early 1970s, the first LANDSAT images had an enormous impact on our view of the environment, bringing many large scale environmental issues to our attention. Today the Forest Service is one of the largest users of satellite images.

The instruments SEIDAM is using supply different kinds of data. This information can be correlated with known conditions about the areas under study. In this way it should be possible to determine what information could be obtained using differnt sensing packages. For example, LANDSAT images are widely used to monitor ground cover and how it is impacted by fires and harvesting, however, these cannot be used to reliably identify individual species. While other airborne and satellite imaging systems can map moisture content and vegetation, these are very costly to use over large areas.

SEIDAM's goal is to create a system that will help forest managers determine the most cost-effective combination of technologies needed to answer specific questions.

With all this data flowing in, the need arises to put it into an accessible context. Through the satellite technology of the '90s it would be possible to have a steady flow of data equivalent to one set of encyclopedia delivered to your location every 25 seconds. But how would you manage this information? How would you even start looking for answers to your questions?

Less dramatic than the actual data acquisition, the second goal – managing the data – may well be the more important one. The SEIDAM partners will be developing an expert system to integrate and analyze this data.

This is a large scale project that will eventually draw expertise and technology from all over the world to answer pressing questions about B.C.'s forests. It is also unique in being the only non-U.S. led project of its type.

Resource kit for public presentations is now available

Talking about forestry to high school students, youth groups and service clubs is enjoyable. The tricky part is compiling material and targeting the presentation for the specific group. A *Resource Kit for Public Presentations* is now available for Forest Service staff to help simplify this process.

The resource kit develops a framework of presentation ideas, techniques and support materials appropriate for different audiences. The intent is to provide field staff with a tool-kit of information and suggestions that will help them develop their own presentations as well as hone their presentation skills.

The kit was developed and tested in close liaison with Forest Service staff and educators in the public school system.

To get people started, sample presentations along with visual materials are included on subjects ranging from the birth of a tree – geared to primary school audiences, to sustained yield, and allowable annual cut – intended for senior high school and adult audiences. Other sample units cover: forest communities, managing a forest, reforestation, and silvicultural systems.

Most of the material can be mixed and matched depending on subject and audience. Presenters are also encouraged to include specific material on local and regional subjects. There are five kits in each region and at least one at each branch and district office.

For more information on the *Resource Kit for Public Presentations* please contact **Meggin Messenger**, silviculture extension officer, training and extension services, silviculture branch.

Our apologies

Page one of the August 1993 newsletter issue incorrectly identified the individual shown standing in the photograph with Chief Forester John Cuthbert.

The ASEAN delegation, which visited B.C. in early August, was led by **Dato' Ismail Awang**, Director General of the Peninsular Malaysia Forest Department.

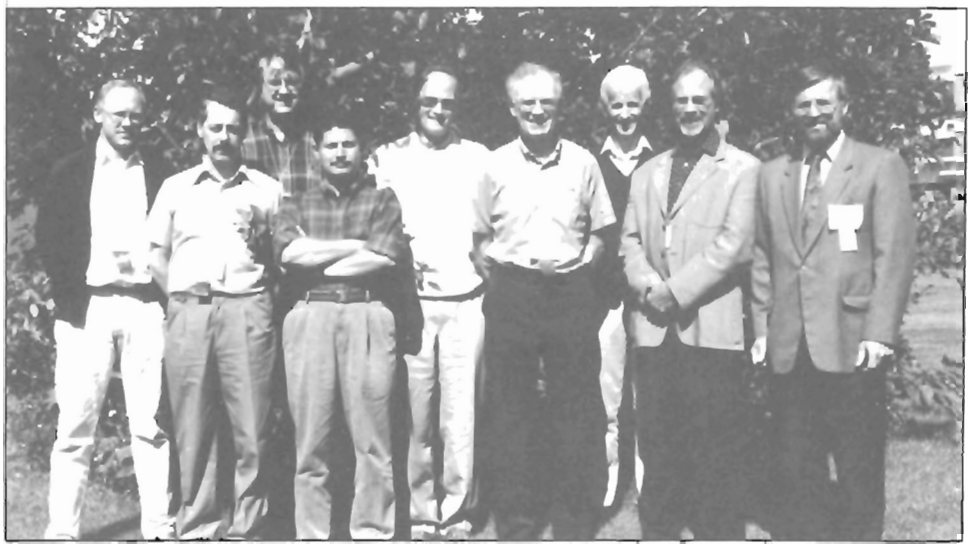
We express our sincere regrets for any confusion this error may have caused.

Symposium discusses seed production research

More than 80 delegates from 11 countries participated in three days of technical sessions and a one-day field tour during a symposium of the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) co-hosted by the Forest Service and the University of Victoria. The symposium was held at UVic, August 23–26, 1993.

IUFRO members with specific interests can participate in various working parties made up of researchers working in the same area. IUFRO Working Party S2.01-05 is principally concerned with reproductive processes in forest trees.

The group last met in Kómick, Poland in 1985. As both the forest biology program at UVic and Forest Service research in flowering and pollen management have made a substantial contribution to the field in the past five years, hosting a symposium in Victoria was both an obligation and a privilege.



Invited seakers for the IUFRO conference (left to right): ***Per Christer Odén****, Sweden;* ***Richard Chalupka****, Poland;* ***Bob Cecich****, US;* ***Yousry El-Kassaby****, Canada;* ***Marc Bonnet-Massimbert****, France;* ***Mike Greenwood****, US;* ***Geoff Sweet****, New Zealand;* ***Joe Webber****, Canada; and,* ***John Owens****, Canada.*

Planning for the meeting began in the summer of 1991. Two research scientists from the Glyn Road Research Station near Victoria – **Joe Webber** and **Michael Stoehr**, and **John Owens**, director of the forest biology program at the University of Victoria, served as the local planning committee. A technical planning committee made up of principal research scientists throughout the world was also instrumental in developing the symposium theme and soliciting participants.

Chief Forester **John Cuthbert** opened the symposium, presenting an overview of the important issues in forestry in British Columbia. Delegates were very interested in hearing how the Forest Service is addressing these issues and working to balance future timber supply requirements with other forest values.

After a tribute to the late **Steve Ross** and a plenary address by **Marc Bonnet-Massimbert** (France), 38 invited and contributed papers were presented. Seven sessions presented in the technical program were: *Biology and Control of Flowering*, **Richard Chalupka**, Poland and **Bob Cecich**, US; *Juvenility and Sex Expression*, **Mike Greenwood**, US; *Gibberellins and Control of Bud Growth and Differentiation*, **Per Christer Odén**, Sweden; *Biology and Control of Seed Production*, **John Owens**, Canada; *Biology and Control of Poliniation*, **Joe Webber**, Canada; *Seed Production in Seed Orchards*, **Geoff Sweet**, New Zealand; and, *Delivery of Gain*, **Yousry El-Kassaby**, Canada. In addition, 16 posters were prepared and presented to the group.

A field trip rounded out the symposium. At the Saanich Seed Orchard, Seed Services Section Manager **Jenji Konishi** welcomed the group and led a tour of the facility. Later, the group travelled to Sandcut Beach for a walk through a second growth stand of coastal rain forest. Research Scientist **John Russell** provided a tour of his western redcedar inbreeding and yellow cypress progeny trials.

The field tour wrapped up at the Cowichan Lake Research Station where Research Scientist **Jack Woods** led a tour and Station Cook **Al Wilkinson** provided a meal the guests will long remember.

Since the group's last meeting, research emphasis has shifted noticeably to operational delivery of seed production while less work is being carried out on the basic mechanisms of flowering in forest trees. Increased interest in the biology of flowering in hardwoods and seed production in partial cuts is also evident.

With increased interest in alternative seed orchard systems, research efforts in seed production are now more balanced between basic studies and delivery systems. Information from New Zealand suggests that future orchard production will concentrate more on control of contributing parents than on production quotas.

The experience in B.C. is similar. While planned production levels are being attained, ensuring trees raised from orchard seed have high genetic diversity and are broadly adapted to the plantation site is a task that both operational and research programs alike must now face.

The effort in organizing such a meeting is a challenge but one with substantial rewards. The symposium highlights B.C.'s research program to the world community of flowering and seed research scientists. It was also an opportunity to renew and make new contacts for future studies. The proceeding from the symposium will appear in future issues of *Tree Physiology*.

Contributed by ***Joe Webber*** *and* ***Michael Stoehr****, Glynn Road Research Station.*

Dream team takes softball tourney

Great pitching and solid hitting powered the Protection Branch Dream Team to first place honours Saturday, August 21 as the Forest Service headquarters softball league wound up the season with an all-day tournament in Central Saanich, north of Victoria.

The Dream Team took the Group B division with a 4–3 squeaker over the Research Branch Standard Deviants, a 7–5 win over Pacific Forestry Centre's Dead Woods, and an 11–7 victory over the Valuation Ditch Pigs.

In the final round, the Dream Team defeated the A division winner Timber Harvesting Clearcuts 8–5 for tournament honours.

The Clearcuts, who wound up the season with an 11–2 record and a league-leading 23 points, went to the tourney final on the strength of an 8–4 win over the Silviculture Knots, a 10–3 trouncing of the Information Systems Connectors and an 8–4 victory over the Systemhouse Sluggers.

Final league and tournament standings saw the Dead Woods second in the league and third in the tourney; the Silviculture Knots third in the league and seventh in the tournament; Protection Dream Team, fourth in the league and tourney winners; Information Systems Connectors, fifth at the end of league play and fourth in the tournament; Research Standard Deviants sixth in league action and fifth on tourney day; Systemhouse Sluggers, seventh in the league and sixth on the final day of play; and, the Valuation Ditch Pigs, eighth in both league and tournament play.

At the end of the rousing day of terrific fun and some fine softball, mixed in with laughter and camaraderie, **Brian Baleshta** of the Protection Dream Team was named most memorable player.

The '93 softball tournament was organized by **Brett Ford** of the Dead Woods, Baleshta of the Dream Team, and **Dave Butcher**, the driving force and inspiration behind the Standard Deviants.

During trophy presentations thanks were extended from all the players to the organizers.

*Article and photo contributed by **Wendy Stewart**, a proud member of the Standard Deviants.*

*The Research Branch Standard Deviants: front row, from left: **Paul Nystedt**, **Joan McCorry**, **Kathy Hopkins**, **Gail Collison**. Back row from left: **Paul Lackhoff**, **Gordon Nigh**, **Phil Chapman**, **Angela Kendell**, **Katie Jacobs**, **Terry Simpson**, **Jim Goudie**, **Dave Butcher**, **Wendy Stewart**.*

Retirement...

Val Telford, manager, management services, Chilcotin forest district, retired from the Forest Service on September 30, 1993.

Val joined the Forest Service in 1973 as clerk for the ranger station at Alexis Creek. In 1981 she assumed responsibility for the district finance section and eventually became responsible for all finance and administrative functions.

Val's plans for retirement include using the 10,000 AirMiles she won earlier this year and, of course, working on the ranch.

Welcome...

Ellen Pelto has recently joined the human resources branch as an auxilliary training officer to the end of this calendar year. She will be working on the management training program, implementation of an evaluation system, and the design and development of a guide to the systems approach to training.

...and Best Wishes!

Mike Connor, regional silviculture officer in Prince George has accepted the position of silviculture manager with Industrial Forestry Service of Prince George after 15 rewarding and challenging years with the Forest Service.

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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 the Forest Service Newsletter is November 1, 1993.

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