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Forest Service

Newsletter

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Western-style Kamloops district office opening draws 500

The new Kamloops forest district office hosted its official opening on September 28, 1993.

Housing 72 district staff, the 2,088 square-metre building is an improvement over the old facility where some staff worked in trailers and other work stations were interspersed with the Ministry of Health's ambulance branch.

The opening ceremony reflected a western theme with local ranchers and woodlot operators using branding irons and marking hammers to brand and mark pieces of wood that will be displayed throughout the offices. Also included in the display will be a burl log that was removed from the Cicero Creek area.

More than 500 people, including a large school contingent, attended an open house following the official opening.

Honoured guests attending the opening included: Kamloops MLA and Minister of Education **Art Charbonneau**; MP **Neslon Riis**; **Bob Ellis**, chairman of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District; Councillor **Shirley Carver**; and, **Nathan Matthew**, Chief, of the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council.



*Kamloops District Manager **Bob Miller** demonstrates the post and rail gate of the new Kamloops forest district office. The gate was installed to symbolize the ranching history of the area.*

Aboriginal forestry advisors build links with First Nations

Many First Nations view forestry as a direct route to economic self-sufficiency. In 1991, the provincial Task Force on Native Forestry recommended that a structure be put in place to support aboriginal people and organizations to develop an economic base through forestry. As a result, funding was made available through the Joint Stewardship Fund to hire Aboriginal Forestry Advisors (AFAs) to work at the district level to facilitate communication between the Forest Service, first nations, industry and within the Forest Service itself on First Nations forestry issues.

AFAs promote opportunities for economic development and increased participation of First Nations in the forest sector. They also work to develop and implement training programs and to increase the awareness of resource management issues that are important to First Nations. AFAs are, essentially, district experts on First Nations issues. While the original plans called for an AFA to be hired in each district office, a total of 22 positions have been filled so far.

Mid-Coast forest district AFA **Wilma Robinson** is new to the Forest Service, but like most AFAs, she has strong roots in

the local aboriginal community and a dedication to improving employment prospects for First Nations people.

The Mid-Coast district presents unique challenges for Robinson's liaison work. Most of the area is inaccessible by road. Flying depends on weather, which has not been favourable to date. In the interim, Robinson is concentrating on long range planning.

A second challenge is that this is a new position for the district. Robinson, who spent six years working in band administration, sees her work as part of a long term process. "I think that, over time, people at the local level will find that they can develop a better relationship with the ministry. But because it's such a new position, I think it is going to take a little bit of time."

Robinson describes working for the Forest Service as a learning experience, saying, "I'm definitely seeing forestry from a different perspective. In 1986, the band I worked for had wanted to get a tree farm licence. I didn't realize before I started working here all the steps the ministry goes through to

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award a licence – all the responsibilities of the licensee and all the things that have to be done just to get the licence. Now I can see where it would be better to start off at a smaller level and work their way up.”

John Gerow was designated as AFA for the Lakes forest district three years ago. He describes his job as one where, “You do a lot of talking.” There are six bands in the area, as well as some that cross district lines. An essential part of the job is to build cooperative relationships. Gerow admits that “We’ve had some problems,” but maintains that, “For the most part the bands and the Tribal Council are supportive of what we are doing and willing to work with us.”

Christie Brown, manager, interim measures and aboriginal programs, says that, while the idea of having designated staff to work directly with First Nations is relatively new for resource ministries, it has worked effectively in other types of line agencies.

AFAs are expected to play a unique role in the Forest Service. At a training workshop held October 13 and 14, 1993 in Vancouver, Lakes Forest District Manager **Bill Brinnen** described the AFA as an advisor, an historian, a data collection agent, a strategist, an educator, a facilitator, a diplomat, a cross-cultural expert, and a negotiator.

One of the major challenges for AFAs and their supervisors, according to Brinnen, is separating out the many issues that arise in consulting with First Nations. “Whenever you are consulting with First Nations,” Brinnen told the group, which included AFAs and their supervisors, “It is important to separate out the pre-treaty issues from your responsibility until such time as we are officially at the pre-treaty negotiation stage.” Brinnen admits that, “The biggest problem at the district level is the tendency to mix consultation on resource

development with interim protection measures.”

Another aspect that makes an AFA’s job challenging is differences in priorities. Gerow says that some issues – visual quality, biodiversity and planning horizons – can be very different from a First Nations point of view. First Nations tend to visualize planning on a longer term basis and, at times, visual quality is not as important as maintaining habitat and biodiversity.

A significant part of the AFA’s job is to educate, and Brinnen says that the education process works both ways. “All of us in this office have learned a lot and have gained a better understanding of aboriginal cultures than we had before – where they’re coming from and where they want to go. It is as big a job to educate the Forest Service and industry about aboriginal values and views as it is to educate First Nations on what our planning processes are.”

Robinson agrees on the importance of the education and communication process. “I know for a fact that, right at the local level, what people want is jobs – long term jobs rather than 20 week job creation kinds of things. But I think that the education process is going to take a while. At the local level they need more training to be successful in business.”

“I was hired because of my communications skills and I’m learning a lot that will help local people. One of the things I like about this job is that there is a real commitment on the part of the ministry to help native people in employment – it’s a sincere desire. I think things will work out.”

The resolution of Native land claims is the single most important land-use challenge facing native people and the province. No other sector of the economy will be more effected by land claims than forestry. Resolving land claims will be a long term process involving all levels of government. In the interim, the Forest Service is working hard to involve aboriginal people in all aspects of forestry.

Blackout: Operational implementation of a research initiative

The greenhouse nursery culture of forest seedlings in the central interior of B.C. has been a high risk venture because of climate – late springs and early falls – and the biological intricacies of producing the crop at these latitudes.

Blackout is a system of moveable curtains, located immediately under the greenhouse covering. The curtains are closed or opened as needed to hold heat in during cold weather or to shorten the day and simulate a time later in the growing season. Seedlings can be ‘fooled’ into perceiving it is September in July. This speeds up the seedlings’ preparations for winter, such as bud set and dormancy.

Red Rock Research Station near Prince George started a blackout research program in 1988 to determine if cultural risk in the central interior could be reduced through this approach.

Early research results from Red Rock indicated crops could be sown earlier, heated economically, and good recoveries attained from ‘hard to grow’ species and seedlots; all without impacting on post nursery growth. These results caught the interest of **Joe Wong** of Woodmere Nursery at Telkwa.

In 1990, Wong retrofitted blackout to five greenhouses. His

findings in an operational setting were similar to the Red Rock experience. He could sow early in February (prior to blackout sowing was done in mid-March); heat his crop economically; compete in the summer hot plant seedling market (this was not possible prior to blackout); be assured of meeting shipment delivery dates; induce dormancy (important for good storage of seedlings over the winter); and better control seedling height. Wong also found he could improve utilization of greenhouse space.

Blackout proved so successful that Woodmere Nursery installed the system in another five greenhouses in 1993. Wong says, “The proximity of Red Rock to the northern growers, and the willingness of the staff to concentrate on important northern research issues and share their findings has resulted in a successful transfer of research to the operational nursery community.” In addition, Wong says Red Rock has proven very useful in supporting the educational needs of the grower and that he likes the practical approach taken by the Red Rock team.

*Contributed by Chris Hawkins, Red Rock Research Station,
Prince George.*

Kamloops school program proves popular

The Kamloops forest district's Adopt-A-Forester program is entering its third year. The program provides information on forestry through a network of professional foresters working through the school system.

Kamloops Operations Manager **Peter Lishman** started Adopt-A-Forester because he saw a need for more information about forestry in the elementary school system.

After putting considerable time and energy into visiting schools himself, Lishman decided to get help. His idea was to have a professional forester or technician attached to each school and also to have a teacher representative from each school to be the initial contact person.

Originally, the school district was hesitant – it had an established curriculum in place and felt that there was no time for this. There was also some concern that the information might be perceived as biased – many of the participating foresters were from industry. After a few test runs, however, the program proved its worth and more teachers began to get involved.

The first step was to review the existing curriculum. Lishman and his colleagues found that much of the presentation material was out of date. Some of it dated back to the 1950's. Lishman felt that the material didn't paint a fair picture of what was happening in the forest and set about developing up-to-date information. A training program on how to make presentations to children was also developed for an initial group of some 20 foresters and technicians.

There are now 46 schools involved in the program. One teacher acts as a contact person in each school. As well, a forester is assigned to the school. If another teacher wants to do a unit on forestry or natural resources, they work through the contact teacher to arrange for their assigned forester to deliver a talk or lead a field trip. Last year the program coordinated 180 school visits and 34 field trips.

Lishman seems to have had little difficulty recruiting foresters who want to get involved. Of the 40 adoptees, 16 are from the district office, five more are from the region and the rest are a mix of industry people and consultants. All are working for a common concern – promoting forest education at the school level.

Lishman has high praise for the teachers, foresters, technicians and school district staff who have worked to make the program a success. Many people have volunteered their time to take training and develop materials. However, according to Lishman, it's

not all work and no play. "Every year we get together for a barbecue. It's a chance for teachers and foresters to meet. We go over some of the successes of the previous year and hand out new information for the coming year."

One key requirement for participants is the ability to talk to children about forestry. "One of the problems we had early on in the program," Lishman says, "was that we were tending to talk to much. The teachers told us we had to do more hands-on work with the kids. The training we do is on how to talk to kids about forestry and how to put ideas in their terms. Now we spend more time taking kids out in the field."

Foresters in the program have developed an impressive array of resources in conjunction with the school district: a teachers guide on the Isobel demonstration forest; tree identification kits; a silviculture kit; and a nursery kit. A resource kit on timber harvesting is currently being developed.

The kits contain displays, activity sheets, samples, videos, and slides. All of the material includes specific information for the Kamloops area. "With kids, if you talk about forestry in B.C. they can't relate to it," Lishman says. "If you talk about forestry in their backyard it's much more understandable. They can tie that in when they go camping with their families."

Lishman finds working in the schools is both challenging and rewarding, admitting that, "This is strictly 'other related duties,' but most people find it's a lot of fun spending a day in the field with a group of kids. The kids are enthusiastic to learn about forestry and they're not afraid to ask you hard questions."

*For more information about Adopt-a-Forester, contact **Peter Lishman**, Kamloops forest district, phone: 371-6500.*



*Adopt-A-Forester promotes scenes like this one with Kamloops Operations Manager **Peter Lishman** providing a hands-on forestry experience for school children.*

Management plan released for Height-of-the-Rockies wilderness area

Established in 1987 after many years of dedicated work by members of the public, industry and government, Height-of-the-Rockies was the first provincial wilderness area to be designated in B.C. The 68,000 hectare area straddles the boundary between the Invermere and Cranbrook forest districts. Operational responsibilities for the wilderness area are shared by both districts. There are now four designated wilderness areas under the *Forest Act* in B.C. covering a total of 130,000 hectares.

The *Forest Act* prohibits commercial logging in a wilderness area but not mining. The Protected Areas Strategy defines protected areas as areas where no industrial extraction or development is permitted. Existing protected area legislation will be reviewed which could lead to changes in the *Forest Act* with respect to designated wilderness areas.

"This is the first wilderness management plan for a wilderness area," **Terje Vold**, senior wilderness forester, says. "As such, it not only provides comprehensive, long term guidance for managing the Height-of-the-Rockies, it also serves as a prototype plan and marks an important milestone in the ongoing process of protecting wilderness in our province."

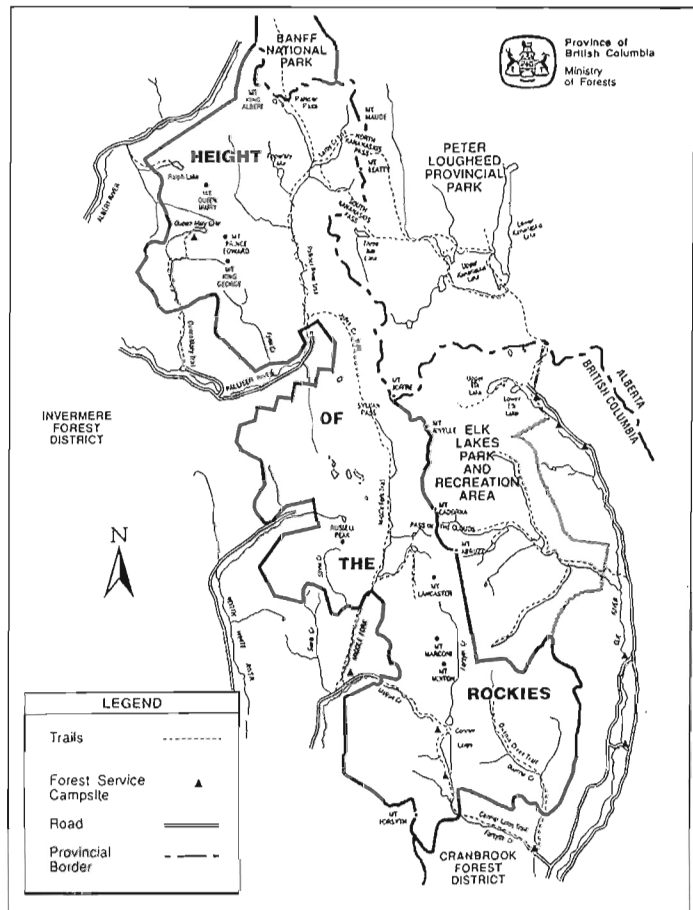
According to **Kreg Sky**, recreation resource officer, Invermere forest district, the wilderness management plan sets out the overall goals for the Height-of-the-Rockies and identifies issues of concern. It is a hands-on document, setting out concrete management objectives and actions within the context of existing legislation and policy.

The plan establishes a number of management zones in order to protect the area and provide opportunities for varying degrees of wilderness experience. These zones range from primitive settings with no trails, such as the Mount King George area, to semi-primitive settings like the Middle Fork-Sylvan Pass area with its riding and hiking trails and rustic campsites.

Motorized and mechanized recreational access, including the use of float planes, helicopters, snowmobiles, ATVs and mountain bikes, is considered inappropriate in this wilderness area. Ample opportunities exist for these activities elsewhere in provincial forests and would detract from the enjoyment of others in this setting.

Copies of the Height-of-the-Rockies wilderness management plan are available from recreation branch. For more information contact, **Greg Bacon**, Cranbrook forest district, 426-1700; **Kreg Sky**, Invermere forest district, 342-4200; or **Terje Vold**, recreation branch, 387-8482.

Contributed by George Sranko, forest interpretation and communication specialist, recreation branch.



The Height-of-the-Rockies wilderness area.

Attention curlers!

The Forestry Provincial Bonspiel will be held February 11, 12, and 13, 1994 in Kamloops. Entry fees are still \$140 per team and the banquet promises to be bigger and better this year.

The bonspiel is limited to 72 rinks (that's a team of four for you non-curlers). Last year the event hosted 59 rinks.

To register your rink, please contact **Sharon Berkey** at 828-4191.

BCFCSN has new director and delivery centre

There have been some recent developments at the BC Forestry Continuing Studies Network. As originally planned when the network was first set up, founding Director **Cindy Pearce** has returned to freelance consulting work now that the network is up and running after a two-year start-up phase. The new director, **Patricia Plackett**, took over on October 21 after 15 years of involvement in forestry in the public and private sectors in Canada and New Zealand.

Other developments include the opening of a fifth delivery centre in Smithers at Northwest Community College with **Doug Biffard** as coordinator and the appointment of **Markus Merkens** as the lead coordinator at the provincial office on the UBC campus. Merkens will coordinate the delivery of province-wide training activities.

Tribute to the late Jim Haley, fire suppression coordinator, Prince George forest region

Excerpts from a eulogy delivered at the memorial service for Jim Haley by Fort Nelson District Manager Bob Read, a friend and former co-worker.

Many of us here today had the pleasure of meeting Jim and his family through our work in the B.C. Forest Service. Jim started work with the Forest Service soon after he graduated from school. His career took him to many places. He started with the Forest Service in 1959 as a suppression crewman in South Slokan. He moved on to Cranbrook, Grand Forks and Nelson as a stand-tending crewman.

Jim became an assistant ranger in 1962 in Golden and held similar postings in Beaverdell, Elko and Cranbrook. He went to the advanced course at Ranger School in 1970 and became deputy ranger in Cranbrook in 1971. He moved on to Canal Flats as deputy ranger in 1972 and came to Prince George as the silviculture coordinator in 1974.

Jim became a swing ranger in protection in 1975 and held that position until 1981 when he became the fire suppression coordinator for the Prince George Region.

I met Jim when I moved to Prince George. Jim was the type of person who really went out of his way to make you feel at home, immediately inviting me to dinner at home with his family. That was his way.

I've talked with many of Jim's workmates and it's interesting how everyone had a common respect for Jim. He

had the best fatherly image of anyone I've ever worked with – non-judgemental and always ready to offer some good advice when you asked for it.

He was famous around the office for his love of doughnuts (jelly-filled) and even went so far as to proclaim every Thursday Duty Officer Doughnut Day – so he could get his

doughnuts! He had many devious ways of making other people succumb to buying the doughnuts.

Jim had a love for lunchtime crib games. He felt somewhat superior to everyone else in playing the game and, being somewhat like a stubborn kid, he always had to have the white pegs. He used to say, as he accumulated points throughout the game, that the points would come to him like trained pigs.

He was especially proud to have had a perfect crib hand. Many of his jars of quarters came from our pockets.

Everyone will tell you that Jim was a very intelligent man. His knowledge of the history of the Forest Service and the geography of British Columbia was unmatched by anyone.

Like many others, I am going to miss Jim's visits to the district and on my visits to Prince George. He made the working environment for all of us a better place to be. I know his last

message to many district people would be, "Get those fire reports in – they're late!!"

Jim you can rest assured, you will be with a lot of us for a very long time.



Jim Haley with a winning crib hand.

Vancouver forest region road construction workshop

Every year in B.C. approximately 11,000 kilometres of logging roads are constructed. Improper or poor quality forest road construction, maintenance or deactivation can cause unacceptable damage to the environment. This one-day workshop covers road construction, maintenance and deactivation with a strong emphasis on operational practices. The workshop is designed to complement Coastal Fish Forestry Guidelines training offered

through the BC Forestry Continuing Studies Network.

Course dates/locations:

January 28, 1994 - Chilliwack
January 31, 1994 - Chilliwack
February 7, 1994 - Powell River
February 14, 1994 - Parksville

For more information contact:

Marion Grau, Malaspina College,
Nanaimo, phone: 741-2678,
fax: 741-2190.

Welcome!

Research branch welcomes **Sandra Thomson**, extension specialist, forest biology and ecology. Thomson has relocated from the Prince Rupert forest region.

Grant Parnell has been appointed acting manager, aboriginal policy and treaty negotiations section, corporate policy and planning branch.

New drying system means this pollen will not fly

Allergy sufferers know when spring has arrived. So do seed orchard managers. Both have strong feelings about airborne pollen. While those of us with hay fever might want pollen to simply go away, seed orchard managers are looking for better ways to collect pollen and store it.

In the past 10 to 15 years, more than 50 Forest Service and private seed orchards have been established for 12 commercially important conifer species. These orchards produce seed that captures specific traits such as improved growth or insect and disease resistance. They also supply seed where natural production is inconsistent or not available.

Most of our conifer species rely on the wind to distribute their pollen. But in seed orchards this has often led to unsatisfactory results. Artificially increasing the pollen supply through supplemental mass pollination can both enhance seed yields and control the number of parents contributing to the seed crop.

In order to obtain the needed pollen supplies for an effective pollination program, a rapid and consistent technique for collecting, drying and extracting pollen buds is essential. Drying is especially important for maintaining pollen viability during storage.

Usually the buds are laid out on trays in heated rooms and left to dry. At other times, pollen buds are spread on screens and heated air is passed over them. However, weather conditions, particularly relative humidity, can result in inconsistent drying patterns and variable pollen moisture content.

Research Scientist **Joe Webber** and Technician **Roger Painter**, both of the Glyn Road Research Station in Victoria, have developed a drying system that controls both temperature and humidity during pollen bud drying.

In cooperation with silviculture branch, **Bob Furber** of Intec Inoventures was contracted to facilitate the design and construction of a prototype pollen dryer. The approach uses a closed system in which a large volume of air is forced through a bed of pollen buds. First the air is passed through in-line heaters. After passing through the drying bed, the air is cooled to extract humidity. The air is then recirculated. Both the heating and cooling process can be varied to regulate temperature and humidity levels. The system is regulated and monitored with a PC.

Following successful field tests of the prototype, Furber was again contracted to construct an operational unit for interior spruce and lodgepole pine. In 1989, the operational pollen dryer was put to work to dry a total of 365 litres of lodgepole pine pollen buds and 384 litres of interior spruce pollen buds. The process yielded 59 litres of lodgepole pine pollen and 52 litres of spruce pollen. This is approximately enough pollen to fertilize all the cones on 2400 pine and 2000 spruce trees.

Extracted pollen volumes were normal. The pollen was tested in the laboratory and in the field. All lots met expectations for fertility.

In the spring of 1992, the operational dryer was commissioned to the interior spruce orchards at Kalamalka. That year, the seed orchard staff produced 45.7 litres of pollen from 327 litres of buds. **Chris Walsh**, Kalamalka seed orchard manager, is delighted with the new dryer and says, "The dryer allows us to process several times more pollen in a shorter period of time." Acquisition of further units is now under consideration for other orchard sites.

Improvements continue to make the dryer more flexible. In particular, there is a growing need to dry small quantities of pollen buds for test purposes and extracting pollen lots by clone.

Work is also continuing on the extraction of pollen from the dried buds. Extraction can be both time-consuming and messy. Normally it takes four to five hours to clear and reload the dryer. Large sieves have helped alleviate the problem but are not totally satisfactory. Several alternatives are being considered including the use of a cyclone separator.

Manipulating pollen supply in seed orchard production is a powerful tool. Making these improvements to our pollen handling technique is helping us to deliver the high quality seed that we expect from seed orchard production.

*Contributed by **Joe Webber** and **Roger Painter**,
Glyn Road Research Station, Victoria*

Retirement

Harold Bell will retire from the Forest Service in January 1994 after 37½ years of service. Harold started as a dispatcher in the Alberni forest district. His career has taken him to Chilliwack, Harrison, Parksville, Langford, Echo Bay and Vancouver. In 1971 he became assistant ranger for the Duncan forest district and has been there ever since.

At Harold's request there will be no formal retirement party. District staff are planning to say their farewell at a pot-luck luncheon on January 4, 1994.

Duncan Cummings, resource officer, recreation, Golden forest district, has decided to retire in February 1994 after more than 40 years with the Forest Service.

Dunc joined the Forest Service in Lardeau in 1952. He became a dispatcher in Slocan in 1957.

Deputy Ranger Cummings graduated from Ranger School in the spring of 1971 and returned to take up his duties at Kaslo.

Dunc received his first posting as Ranger in Mica Creek in 1978. After reorganization in 1981 he assumed the job of resource officer, protection. In 1985 he switched to his current position of resource officer, recreation.

ADM reaches a milestone in the Prince Rupert forest region

July 13 and 14, 1993 marked the achievement of a goal shared by **Thea Vakil**, assistant deputy minister, management services and **Terry Walker**, regional staff manager, management services, Prince Rupert forest region. That goal was to have Vakil visit the regional office and all seven forest districts in the region. In fact, the entire tour had to be completed in instalments between September 1992 and July 1993.

Vakil's visit to the region began in Smithers on September 1, 1992. After catching an early flight from Victoria, the ADM received a tour of the regional office and attended a quick meeting with Bulkley district office staff.

Vakil's next call to the region was on a charter flight to the Dease Lake and Cassiar districts in the company of protection branch Director **Jim Dunlop**, Regional Manager **Larry Pedersen**, and Regional Protection Officer **Steve Schmidt**. While the others went about their business, Vakil met with district management services staff.

On June 8, Vakil again caught that early morning flight to Smithers. This time her destination was the Morice forest district office for a staff meeting. Describing a day in the life of an ADM, she recounted a story about an executive retreat to Duncan. Due to bad roads, an unscheduled trip to Mount Provost included some hiking. Although dressed for the office in skirt, and high heels, Vakil was not to be left out. She took off her shoes and followed the rest up the mountain, totally ruining her nylons.

Vakil spent the afternoon in the Lakes district touring facilities, meeting staff and getting a district management team perspective on management services. Before leaving, Vakil was presented with a *Life Rewards Log Book* by **Marlene Wium**, financial services clerk, and **Nancy Wietjo**, office service supervisor. This is part of district-sponsored program designed to lead staff in improving their own individual lifestyle. By tracking various types of exercise, mentally stimulating and/or relaxing associations, a participant earns points. At each plateau, participants are rewarded with a mug, a jacket, and so on.

The following day, Vakil was the special guest at a regional management team meeting. Terry Walker gave a presentation on some of the problems of a northern region. The issues centred on distances and travel cost. Walker gave the example of a trip from the regional office in Smithers to the Atlin field office in the Cassiar forest district. The 2,600 kilometre trip can take more than four days by road depending on weather and travel conditions.

Another challenge is recruitment and selection. The Prince Rupert region has one of the highest recruitment levels in the province of staff who come directly from learning institutions. There is also a fairly high turnover of staff in favour of more southern locations, so training is a very high priority.

Remembering Vakil's earlier description of an executive meeting turned climbing expedition, Morice Forest District Manager Al Gorley presented an ADM Survival Kit – a fanny pack loaded with gloves, bug dope, band-aids, overshoes, matches and other items likely to prove useful for future field excursions and executive meetings.

The afternoon was spent in the Kispiox forest district. At a staff meeting called by District Manager **Charlie Willson**, the ADM was presented with information on initiatives to assist with the native employment situation.

When a staff member asked Vakil, "What exactly does an ADM, management services do?" The reply was, "Listen, talk, listen, listen and talk."

The final trip to complete visits to each district kicked off from Terrace for a journey to the Kalum forest district. At a staff meeting, **Norm Parry**, operations manager, described what it means to a forest district to be in the midst of land claims negotiations. It means that District Manager **Brian Downie** spends as much as 50 per cent of his time on negotiations, travelling to or from negotiations, researching a specific point under negotiation, or meeting with other interested parties to explain the status of negotiations.

To round out the view of the North Coast district, Vakil and District Manager **Gary Adolph** donned regulation flameproof coveralls for a flight to Bishop Bay where they boarded the Coast Ranger, which set sail the next day for Hartley Bay, on Douglas Channel. Vakil later flew back to Prince Rupert for a quick meeting with the North Coast forest district management team and thus completed her goal of visiting all the districts in the Prince Rupert forest region.

*Article and photo contributed by **Terry Walker**, regional staff manager, management services, Prince Rupert forest region.*



*Thea Vakil, assistant deputy minister, management services, and North Coast Forest District Manager **Gary Adolph** had time to relax aboard the forest service vessel Coast Ranger while making their way to Hartley Bay, on Douglas Channel.*

Vanderhoof forest district office wins safety award

There is such a thing as a free lunch. Vanderhoof forest district staff proved that recently by earning a luncheon for working safely – nine years in a row!

In September, **Wes Cheston**, assistant deputy minister, operations, and Prince George Regional Manager **Ken Collingwood** presented the district with a Safety Award of Excellence. Staff members also received jackets marking the occasion.

So how did they do it? "A positive management style and good communications in the Vanderhoof office had a lot to do with it," **Lee Foster**, district chairperson of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee, said. "Safety is kept on the forefront in our activities. And once you start on a winning roll, you're a little more cautious, and you avoid situations that would be a safety concern," he added.

Specific projects, including a district safety manual and a vehicle maintenance program, have prevented accidents and saved taxpayers' dollars as well. The safety manual, which was finished this spring, was a cooperative effort. Each section was written by an employee with particular expertise. It includes things like aircraft safety, use of all-terrain vehicles, and what to do if you are ever stranded in the bush.

The vehicle maintenance program was developed out of concern for the safety of fellow workers and because of the high cost of repairing damaged winches, broken windshields, tires, shocks, springs, etc.

The program uses positive reinforcement to encourage staff to drive safely and to keep their vehicles and equipment in top shape. At the end of the month, each vehicle – assigned to a principle operator – is checked over by **Hans Raabe**, district warehouseman. He uses a checklist to award points for everything from keeping the vehicle clean to checking fluid levels, avoiding accidents and ensuring that survival gear is in order.

Every three months the points are tallied up. Those at the top of the list receive a small gift such as a first aid kit to recognize their efforts. Those who didn't receive as many points are encouraged to improve their standing.

Already the district's vehicle maintenance costs are down \$14,000 from last year, according to Operations Manager **Sam Campese**. Winning the award also has other benefits, Campese adds. "It's exciting winning something like this. I think it will help build esprit de corps."



*Regional Manager **Ken Collingwood** (left) congratulates **Lee Foster** and **Bonnie Elliot** of the Vanderhoof forest district for winning the Safety Award of Excellence.*

The safety awards are given out by the B.C. Safety Council to both private and public sector employees. Offices can get involved by submitting their hours worked with no time-loss accidents to the accident prevention section at human resources branch. Details on the awards and on how to earn a free lunch are contained in the *Forest Service Accident Prevention Manual*. For more information, contact **Jim Stobie**, manager, occupational health and accident prevention, human resources branch, at 387-8753.

*Article and photo contributed by **Jeff Elder**, communications officer, Prince George forest region.*

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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 30, 1993.



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