



The British Columbia

Forest Service

Newsletter

Vol. 4, No. 7

A Newsletter for Ministry of Forests' employees

July 1994

British foresters tour Chilliwack

A recent tour of the Chilliwack forest district left 15 professional foresters from Britain amazed at the scale of forestry in B.C. and envious of the growth rate of coastal forests.

The members of the British Association of Professional Foresters (BAPF) visited the district in May on a Festival of Forestry tour. The organization, which has been active in B.C. for almost 30 years, sponsors provincial, national and international tours to promote forestry education.

The British delegation visited a variety of sites, including intensive silviculture projects, site rehab/stand conversion, commercial thinning and a landslide caused by the failure of an old logging road.

They also took in two active harvesting areas: a Small Business Forest Enterprise Program timber sale that incorporates aspects of biodiversity management principles, and a 95-year-old clearcut, now the site of Douglas-fir trees of up to one-and-one-half metres in diameter.

BAPF chairman **David Ogg** noted that except for the scale of local forestry, practices in B.C. and England are similar. While he thought B.C. should be doing more to manage timber stands, he also acknowledged that people have been misled about B.C. forestry practices.

"This has caused lots of damage to the province and its forest industry," Ogg said, stressing the difference between preservation and conservation. "Preservation at a moment in time is not possible. It's very selfish — a total lack of thought and planning. You must replace the word 'preserve' with 'conserve'. Conservation will allow for the woodlands to be managed for the long term,

while preservation means a lack of management altogether."

Both British and B.C. foresters noted how forestry is shaped by history and traditions: B.C. forest management is based on ecology; land use in England, where virtually all land has been occupied over the centuries, is regulated from an archeological perspective.

One British delegate, **John Workman**, Advisor to National Trees for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, recalled a telling example:

A British landowner who wanted to forest 200 acres of marginal farmland, had to pay \$35,000 for an archeological survey based on the "polluter pay" principle.

The Festival of Forestry tour wrapped up with a dinner, where Chilliwack forest district Manager **John Hall** presented each delegate with a Forest Service cap as a memento.

— Submitted by *Walter Vohradsky*, operations manager, forestry, Chilliwack forest district.

Fire Suppression Olympics



The Tug O'hose contest, part of the Kamloops forest district's annual Fire Suppression Olympics, tests the strength and stamina of Forest Service fire fighters Sean Payne, Corey Anderson and Chris Mayer. Who's on the other end of the hose and who won? See story on page 5.

Turner ends 35-year career

When I show up at Fred Turner's office to interview him on his retirement, he has a couple of pages of foolscap ready with details of his 35-year career in the Forest Service.

Stuff like how one of his first jobs, as a forest assistant in Williams Lake in 1960, paid \$248 a month and a \$10 a month isolation allowance. And how in the winter '63, when he was assistant ranger in the Horsefly forest district, he and his wife lived in a cabin with an outdoor biffy and a cold water tap which froze in winter.

Fred moved a lot and did different jobs — like most Forest Service staff in those days. Over the years he fought fires, cruised timber, worked on a marking crew, was an assistant

ranger, a field supervisor in silviculture and timber, a planning assistant, and for the last 12 years, a resource protection officer, first in the Prince George west district.

A lot has changed in the way the Forest Service fights fires.

"In the early '60s, we didn't have air tankers. The helicopters were small — they could hardly fly on a hot day. Bulldozers had blades controlled by cables instead of hydraulics, which weren't nearly as powerful or reliable."

"Today we have better technology, better detection systems and better crews. When I started there was no training at all. You learned from the guys who had been around a while."

Fred worked his last day July 21. He wishes everyone the best with the current reorganization, especially those in protection, for whom he says it will be "the mother of all challenges."

He plans to spend his retirement doing lots of hiking and fishing, and relaxing on Hornby Island, where he and his wife Karen own some property.

And what will he miss the least? "Windy days. That's going to be one of the nicest things. It can be nice and hot and windy, and I won't break out in a sweat."

— Submitted by Jeff Elder, communications officer,
Prince George forest region

Chilliwack wins safety awards

An exemplary safety record has earned Chilliwack forest district staff the Occupational Health and Safety Committee's bronze, silver and gold awards for accident-free days.

District staff worked a total of 256,657 hours to earn the gold award. In recognition of the achievement, the district hosted a barbecue and awards presentation.

Several employees received awards of merit for their individual safety records.

Harry Bialis has worked five years without an accident, Tom Frey for 10 years, John Coles and Len Lerouz for 15, Greg Dixon, Bruce Oakley, Jim Reid and Dennis Singer for 20, and Reuben Medeiros for 25.

District Manager of Management Services Diane McLatchie scheduled the awards ceremony during National Health and Safety Week. The event also provided an opportunity to promote safety both at work



The Chilliwack forest district Safety Fair attracted several organizations to promote safety at work and away from.

and away. Organizers staged a safety fair, and invited the Chilliwack Fire Department, Red Cross and several local suppliers of safety equipment to provide information and demonstrations.

The Chilliwack forest district continues to extend its safety record. With a July total of 411,000, the district is approaching the next milestone of 540,000 accident-free hours, which will earn staff the Award of Honor.

Forest Service and community effort pays off in Dawson Creek

An interpretive forest complete with a duck pond and chip trail is springing up in the middle of Dawson Creek, thanks to a little vision and a lot of hard work.

The Dawson Creek Community Forest sits on a 10.6-hectare site adjacent to the district office — property which had sat vacant for many years and had accumulated a large pile of dirt during construction at the neighboring Forest Service office.

In 1993 District Manager **Bob Brash** began to speculate that something could be done to turn an eyesore into a community asset. Learning that the land was owned by the municipality fueled his resolve.

"It struck me that something could be done to turn this liability into something benefiting the Forest Service, the local citizens and the educational system," he recalls. "The proximity to the Forest Service office, the school and residential areas told me that it could be made into a community forest, interpretive area, educational facility and recreational area."

Local support came quickly, and city council awarded a 99-year lease on six hectares. Work began almost immediately. Silviculture Planner **Irv Penner** and Field Operations Supervisor **Lynn Dent-Wilson**, working in conjunction with a local non-profit organization, arranged to plant 8,000 spruce seedlings donated by Pacific Regeneration Technologies.

In the spring of 1994, the Dawson Creek Community Forest Society was incorporated to oversee the forest. Dent-Wilson and Penner joined community representatives, members of city council and school board on the society's board of

directors. Together they developed a detailed management plan for the forest.

"Then came the task of finding some financial support for the society," Brash says. "We found nothing but support within the Forest Service. People such as **Ken Collingwood**, Prince George regional manager; **Gary Gurnsey**, regional staff manager, management services; **Sherman Long** from financial services branch and members of the Forest Service executive helped obtain the deputy minister's approval for a grant to the society."

The \$50,000 enabled the society to start its more ambitious plans. This spring elementary students helped plant 1,500 trees, including both native species and exotics, in an arboretum on the lower part of the prop-

erty. A duck pond, a hill and chip trails were also completed.

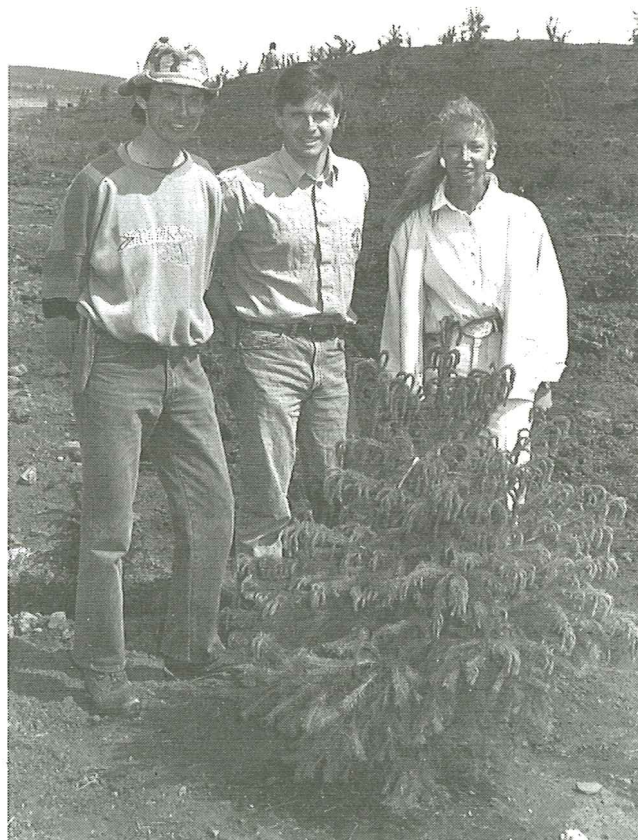
City Council liked the result, and amended the lease to include an additional 4.4 hectares.

Much good will and cooperation has gone into this project. Forest companies, local businesses and volunteers donated equipment, materials and supplies. More contributions are expected once future plans are finalized. Along with Penner and Dent-Wilson, **George Williamson**, **Dolores Sheets**, and the rest of the staff who helped unload the 'tree trucks' and were instrumental to the project's success.

While many regard him as the instigator, Brash downplays his role in the process.

"I just helped nudge it along, everyone else did the real work."

"We knew it would mean some extra work, but it would also be a tremendous asset. It was also gratifying when the society decided to purchase a large Forest Service oval for the office wall facing the community forest to recognize the Forest Service contribution."



Irv Penner, silviculture planner (left); Bob Brash, district manager; and, Lynn Dent-Wilson, field operations supervisor were instrumental in establishing the Dawson Creek Community Forest. Photo courtesy of Dave McColl.

Julius Juhasz retires after 35 years

It's the classic story of a six-week summer job that led to a long and illustrious career. But the story has a twist.

Julius Juhasz was in the final year of a forestry engineering degree at the Sopron School of Forestry when the Russian tanks rolled into Hungary in 1956. He and many of his teachers and classmates fled to Austria, where they received an unusual invitation from the Canadian government: to complete their studies, with their own teachers — in Hungarian — at the University of British Columbia.

Julius graduated from U.B.C. with a B.Sc. in Forestry in the spring of 1958, and, speaking almost no English, found a job as a laborer in a Western Plywood plant in Vancouver. The following year, still with limited English, he took a six-week job with the Forest Service's engineering branch, surveying and locating roads. Thirty-five years later, Juhasz has retired from the Forest Service. (And his English is excellent.)



He graciously attributes the success of his career to a strong tradition of supportiveness in the ministry. "As I grew and was able to handle more complex problems," he says, "I was always given the opportunity to take on bigger challenges, and always had

After 35 years with the Forest Services, Julius Juhasz retirement means he'll have more time for other things: his grandchildren and tennis.

the full, unqualified support of all my colleagues."

He holds secretaries in especially high esteem: "They are so competent and so unconditionally caring."

In his 13 years with the engineering branch, Julius did just about everything the branch did, from designing and building roads and bridges to clearing the forest for the Peace and Micah Dams. Having started as a low-ranking engineering technician, he then qualified as a professional engineer, became the regional engineer for the Prince George Forest Region in 1967, and Special Projects engineer in 1970.

Continued on next page

It's impossible not to collect a lot of stories during a 35-year career—stories that reflect the lighter side of the job and workplace. Asked to share some of his, Julius responded, "I feel like a mosquito that happened on a nudist camp — I just do not know where to start."

Here are some of the highlights.

When Julius was changing the stumpage appraisal system, an industry delegation arranged a meeting with

the Premier and the minister. The deputy minister, the chief forester and myself were also there. After the industry presentation and a lively debate, the Premier turned to the industry delegation and said something like this: "It seems to me that you came here without doing your homework. I am proud of the job my guys did, yet I bet that any one of you make at least 3 times as much money as my guys do."

The chief forester responded, "Yes, Mr. Premier. And that is going to be the subject of our next discussion."

Whenever anybody offered a complicated explanation of a simple issue to another minister, and Julius sensed some frustration, he would enter the discussion with the opening statement, "Let me put this into simple Hungarian for you." After about a year, the minister was heard to say, "Could you put that into simple Hungarian for me."

Another minister, when discussing potential candidates for a position, asked "Isn't there another Hungarian somewhere?"

Fire Suppression Olympics held in Kamloops

Twenty-two fire fighting teams from around the province gathered for the seventh annual Fire Suppression Olympics at the Mount Lolo Fire Camp, 15 kilometres northeast of Kamloops, on June 10 and 11.

Overall winners were the Vancouver Initial Fire Attack Crew (VIFAC B Rotweillers), from the Pemberton helitack base. Steve McNolty, James Hyndman and Ryan Jazic, all helitack fire fighters,

won first place in the hill climb and pump repair and took second place in the tug o'hose, first aid and fly camp events. The team is coached by Nelson Phillips, a member of the VIFAC A crew.

Quick, organized action by fire suppression crews is essential in controlling approximately 3,000 wildfires that strike in B.C. every fire season. The Fire Suppression Olympics allow crews to compare their skills and expertise with the province's top fire fighters in 11 gruelling events.

One of this year's highlights was the tug o'hose contest between the Olympic

judges (veteran Forest Service fire fighters) and three Chilean delegates who were in B.C. on a fire suppression fact-finding mission. The Chileans won by a hair.

Special thanks to the Kamloops forest district staff and the Olympic organizing committee, who put on an excellent show at Mt. Lolo. Participants and spectators enjoyed the good weather, excellent food and fine competition.

The eighth annual Fire Suppression Olympics will be hosted by the Cariboo forest region in 1995.

—Submitted by Sylvia Pang, provincial fire information office, protection branch

Continued from previous page

Julius left engineering to head up the stumpage appraisals section in 1971. "It was considered the most frustrating job in the Ministry," he says, chuckling. "Good foresters want to plant trees, industry wants to minimize the cost of cutting them, and you are in everybody's way."

Julius quickly determined that major changes were needed in the stumpage appraisal system. Almost everyone thought the new system, which was designed to be more equitable, but also allowed an increase in total stumpage, would spell disaster.

"There were few people in or out of the Forest Service who believed in what I was doing," Julius says.

But the minister was one of those who did, and the changes were made. Once implemented, there were few complaints. In fact, in nine years of holding the government's forest revenue post, he believes he made many friends and no enemies. Julius became director of the timber harvesting branch in 1981. He

loved the job, because the branch was responsible for issues that have always been the hub of public forest policy.

Specifically, the branch was responsible for the conceptual or policy aspects of the "tenure system" — a wide and complex array of contractual arrangements between the public owners and the private users of the province's forests. Julius thinks that the tenure arrangements have served as the fundamental tools of achieving public policy objectives, such as industrial development, community stability, and a relatively small Forest Service.

When he became executive director, timber administration in 1990, he assumed responsibility for the timber and valuation branches, and for assisting the ADM operations in his varied, complex responsibilities.

Julius is retired now, but he will do some consulting, and he expects to be able to spend more time with his grandchildren and to play more tennis. "If I were to relive my life, I would do it the same way again," he says.

Changes at Forest Service News team

The production team at Forest Service News has some new help. The Ministry of Forests Public Affairs Branch has retained Kolba & Associates Communications Ltd. to provide editorial and production services.

Former assistant editor Gordon Williams, who has accepted a full-time position with the Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour, passed on a publication that is popular with Forest Service staff around the province. We wish him well.

Ken Kolba and staff intend to continue to produce a newsletter that is interesting and informative. We value readers' continued participation, and invite comments (good, bad or indifferent) at any time. Feel free to call anytime, 360-2213 or fax 382-7631.

FOREST PRACTICES CODE FIELD GUIDES

Crews test new inventory standards

Testing of revamped inventory standards and methodologies for vegetation and other resources begins this summer. Field crews will spend their summers pouring over aerial photos, peering from helicopters, digging soil pits, and cataloguing wildlife and fish near Chilliwack and Williams Lake.

Coordinated by the Resources Inventory Committee (RIC) and funded by FRDA II, the new standards are the result of more than two years' work by nearly 200 specialists from federal, provincial and aboriginal agencies, the private sector, academia and other organizations.

"We're proud to be at this stage," said Dave Gilbert, director of the forest inventory branch and RIC co-chair. "Soon it will be possible to integrate data gathered on a range of resource values — from tourism, recreation and cultural heritage to fish, wildlife, vegetation, land use, geology, climate and more."

Development of the new standards (and methodologies) followed the Forest Resources Commission's 1991 recommendation to upgrade resource inventories.

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data gathered on a range of
resource values — from tourism,
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geology, climate and more."*

— Dave Gilbert

This summer, they will be incorporated into the Forest Practices Code field guides.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for synergy," said Gilbert. "The Code presents

an opportunity to ensure the standards and methodologies are adopted consistently across the province by agencies, industry and contractors."

Rick Smith, chair of the Forest Practices Code technical subcommittee, noted that the RIC's work dovetails with the Code.

"We're working with RIC members to determine the best way to incorporate their work into the field guides," he said.

RIC's vegetation standards and methodologies field trials are being overseen by Verne Sundstrom and Imre Spandli of inventory branch.

"In July our crews are establishing samples located on a five kilometre by 2.5 kilometre grid," said Sundstrom. "As well, between late June and mid-August, a polygon-based vegetation classification system will be completed for the test area. This will allow polygon-based sampling in September."

"Throughout the field season, we'll be developing training and extension materials," added Spandli. "We need to be ready to enable industry and government to adopt the new methods and standards next year."

Scientists will also be verifying ways to inventory fast-stream-dwelling amphibians, woodpeckers, terrestrial salamanders, river otters, surficial geology, slope stability, earthquake hazard, recreation features, stream characteristics, and other values.

For more information on the new inventory standards or the Resources Inventory Committee's work, contact Dave Gilbert, forest inventory program, phone 387-6722 or fax 387-5999.

— Submitted by Bruce Bachelor, resources inventory committee communications consultant

Ministry Policy Manual updated

An updated Ministry Policy Manual distributed May 31 contains 11 new policies, revisions to five existing policies, and an updated index.

The updated pilot electronic version of the manual includes acts and regulations current to May 31, 1994. A new on-line feature allows direct access to acts and regulations from the table of contents. Users can also set up desktop icons to access the acts and regulations without going into the manual. Contact your office manuals coordinator or systems support section for assistance.

The update was an in-house project from start to finish, involving a ministry-wide writing, editing and production effort. Technical and administrative services branch thanks everyone who contributed, and would appreciate any comments about the quality and usefulness of the manual. Please contact Rick Dykun, 387-8874, OVID RRDYKUN.

New help to pinpoint wildfire causes

Was it lightning or a chain saw? Arson or accident? These are some the questions that Forest Service protection officers are now much better prepared to answer in their quest to determine the cause of wildfires.

Special investigators from the U.S. Forest Service recently came to B.C. to share their sleuthing skills with our protection officers. The one-week courses taught ways to determine a fire's origin, mapping and search techniques, collection of evidence, arson devices, profiles of arsonists, reporting, and testifying in court.

The sophisticated methods introduce much more certainty for B.C.'s fire investigators, says Fire Operations Superintendent Colin Effa. The techniques will help provide information necessary to substantiate cost recoveries, claims and criminal proceedings. More accurate statistics on forest fires will also help shape fire prevention programs and budget planning.

"In the past, what we've primarily done is made a judgement call," explains Effa. "We would look at a fire location and, if it is away from where people would normally be, we would probably say it was lightning. This course helps us get down to the actual point of origin and find a specific source. We can also use these techniques to eliminate other causes of fires."

Effa says that determining the origin of a large fire is not much different than working with a small fire.

"All fires start small, and you can usually find the source within 10 feet from studying burn patterns." That point of origin is called the "area of confusion."

"Then it's a matter of getting down on your hands and knees with a magnifying glass to look at everything from charred pebbles and needles to the way grasses have bent from the action of the fire. By looking at



In the area of confusion: (left to right) Bob Pfannenschmidt, Port Alberni forest district; Jeff Moore, Vernon forest district; Rich Whyte, Kamloops forest region; Bob Beck, Kamloops forest district; and Tom Lacey, Merritt forest district, put their wildfire investigation techniques to work. Photo by Colin Effa, fire operations superintendent, protection branch.

these details it's possible to work your way back to the six-inch square area where you actually find the matches."

If not matches, other clues can reveal precise information. Exhaust residue can indicate a power saw started the fire. Or metal fragments gathered on a magnet may suggest a welder was responsible. Investigators may find traces of accelerant, revealing the work of an arsonist.

"The surprise was that there was a lot we already knew — we just didn't know how

to apply it. We know about fires and we know a lot about burn characteristics, but now we are capable of applying that accumulated knowledge and experience and actually getting down to the nitty-gritty of proper investigations and documentation."

"We also found out that our guys are pretty inventive arsonists," Effa says, referring to an assignment to build and test arson devices. "It was very enlightening. There are some people that we are going to have to keep an eye on."

Duncan ball team wins

Braving a non-stop downpour, the Duncan forest district slow-pitch team swept to victory at the 21st annual Maple Bay Fire Department Ball Tournament on June 12.

Although there were a few tense moments, when opposing teams threatened last-minute comebacks, the team won four straight games. Pitcher **Lynn Koss** (ex-receptionist) took a line-drive in the leg, but played as brilliantly as ever through two more games. In their third year in the Cowichan Valley Emergency Services League, the team is looking to come out on top when the season winds up with another tournament in August. In their first year they placed a very respectable third out of 10 teams. Last year they were second, winning an attractive

trophy consisting of a bug-eaten slab of wood with a fire-hose nozzle, softball, elderly running shoe, ankle brace, and pulaski head attached. Seems they are rising stars, and can't end up anywhere but on top this year.

Other team members include **Ellie Wall**, protection support clerk; **Murray Stech**, resource officer, timber; **Rob Furness**, district silviculturalist; **Fred Pattenden**, silviculture resource assistant; **Maureen Tilbury**, financial services clerk; **Mike Copland**, compliance and enforcement resource assistant; **Eric Jeklin**, ex-forestry crewperson; **Dennis and Darrel Poets**, and their father **Ron Poets**, resource officer, engineering; **Kelly Schellenberg**, harvesting technician (RPF); and **Kathy Theobald**, office services supervisor.

Jim Munn moves to Clearwater

After five-and-a-half years as district manager for the Mid-Coast forest district, **Jim Munn** has moved to the Clearwater forest district, replacing retiring District Manager **Mel Monteith**.

Implementation of the Forest Practices Code is going to keep everyone particularly busy, he says. "There are significant changes in the way industry is going to have to operate, and we will be doing more monitoring and enforcement than we have in the past."

Bob Friesen new Executive Director of Operations

Operations division has a new executive director. **Bob Friesen** took over the post on June 27, 1994, after two years as director of corporate policy and planning branch.

No stranger to the operations division, Friesen was regional manager in the Prince Rupert forest region until 1991. Key challenges he faces are working through the reorganization of the ministry, and the implementation of both the Forest Practices Code and the Forest Renewal Plan initiative.



Janna Kumi, assistant deputy minister, operations, plants the 75th millionth tree in the Dawson Creek forest district during a tour in June. She is flanked by Glen Baber, acting Prince George regional manager (left) and (to her right) Brian Pate, of West Fraser Mills, Tony Fazekas, of Canfor, and Bob Brash, Dawson Creek forest district manager.

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

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